

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Lessons of U.S. rulers' use of
sedition laws against unions

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Washington faces divisions over attacks on workers' rights

U.S. intensifies bombing, sets up bases in Afghanistan

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In its heaviest bombings of the war to date, Washington has been pounding the Afghan cities of Kunduz and Kandahar, both held by Taliban forces as of November 19. U.S. and British forces operating inside Afghanistan are directing the one-sided battle against the Taliban, and Washington is preparing to send in more troops as it begins to set up military bases in the country.

Washington has also secured agreement from the Northern Alliance to set aside claims to govern the capital of Kabul, leaving the decision of what form a postwar pro-imperialist regime will take to a conference to be held in Berlin, Germany.

In driving to set an example of what it will do to any government that does not accommodate itself to U.S. imperialism, Washington has rejected every request from Taliban forces in the two cities to negotiate surrender. U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the press with typical brutality that his "hope is that they will either be killed or taken prisoner." United Nations officials also rebuffed a Taliban appeal to discuss surrender in Kunduz, claiming they

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Miners fight to expose safety violations at Jim Walter

BY BOB TUCKER

BROOKWOOD, Alabama—As rescue workers recovered the remains of 12 miners who perished in a September 23 explosion at Jim Walter Resources Blue Creek Mine no. 5, facts continue to mount about the coal company's culpability in the deaths of 13 miners.

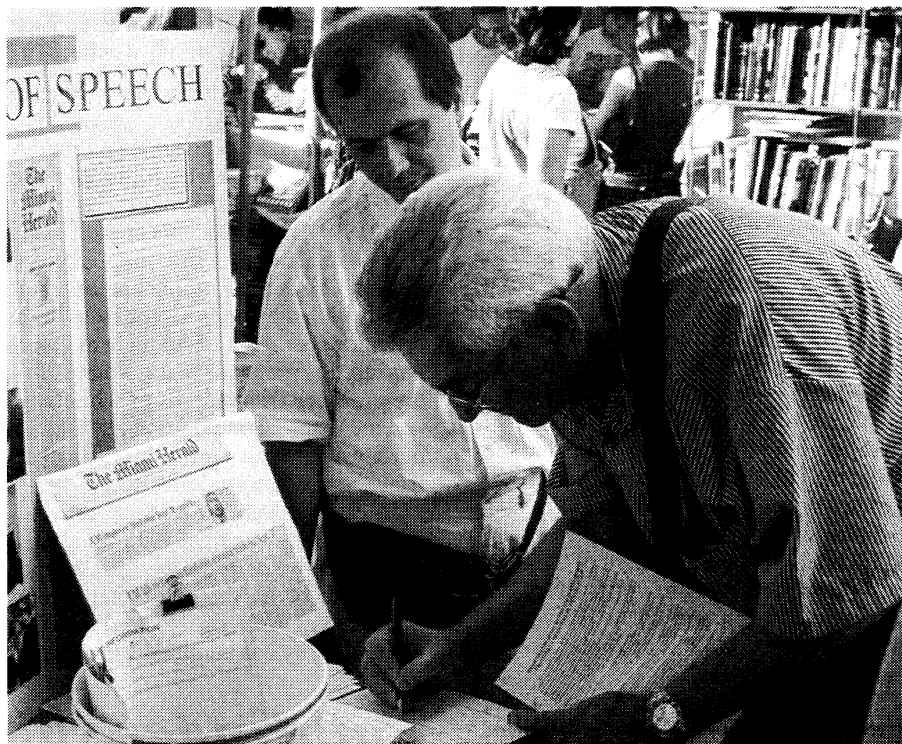
Five families have now filed wrongful death lawsuits against Jim Walter for failing to create and maintain a safe working environment.

On September 23 a rockfall in Jim Walter Blue Creek No. 5 mine struck a battery charger underground. Sparks from the im-

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**Books from
Pathfinder for
working people
and youth fighting
imperialism and
its war. Special
offers, see page 7.**

Miami opponents of political firing open nationwide free speech fight



Supporters of the fight against the political firing of Michael Italie won support at Miami Book Fair. Argiris Malapanis, left, signs up new backing on petition of the Committee to Defend Free Speech and the Bill of Rights. See story, page 9.

Young Socialists: revolution is needed

Support struggles to defend workers' rights; extend 'Militant' subscription drive

BY JACK WILLEY

CHICAGO—"Our goal is to win young workers and students to see the necessity to make a revolution in this country and to join the worldwide fight for socialism," said Jacob Perasso, organizer of the National Executive

Committee in a report to young socialists from across the country who gathered here November 17-18 for a YS Weekend.

"As we come out of this weekend, the campaign to defend the right to freedom of speech being waged against Mike Italie's

firing will be at the center of the Young Socialists' work," Perasso said. "We will work with student groups and other defenders of free speech to organize speaking events on campuses around the country to spread the

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Polisario condemns Morocco's oil deals in Sahara

BY ARLENE TATE

SYDNEY, Australia—"Morocco has no right to issue oil exploration rights in Western Sahara," stated Kamal Fadel, the Polisario Front representative to Australia at a Militant Labor Forum here on October 27. "Issuing contracts to French company TotalFinaElf and U.S.-based Kerr-McGee Corp. are provocative acts by the Moroccan regime following their continued efforts to derail the referendum on independence for Western Sahara," he said.

Western Sahara, in west Africa, was a direct colony of Spain from 1884 to 1975. Facing a growing struggle by the Sahrawi people led by the Polisario Front for national independence, the Spanish government relinquished direct control of Western Sahara and handed it over to the regimes of Mauritania and Morocco in 1975, which swiftly moved in to militarily occupy the territory.

Today, Morocco, ruled by a pro-imperialist monarchy, still occupies two-thirds of Western Sahara. Mauritania withdrew its forces and recognized the Sahara Arab Democratic Republic after being militarily defeated by the Polisario Front in 1979.

Fadel explained that the Moroccan National Office of Oil Exploration and Exploitation (ONAREP) signed a "reconnaissance contract" in October with the American oil company Kerr-McGee. This contract covers an offshore zone of 11,400 kilometers

(7,068 miles) situated north of Boujdour, Western Sahara, and provides for geological and geophysical studies to be done over 12 months. This was the first time that such a contract has been signed between a for-

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Black Lung Association backs widows' march on Washington

BY JEANNE FITZMAURICE

BECKLEY, West Virginia—"I'm walking to Washington with or without help. I am going to make them listen to me," said Linda Chapman of her fight for black lung benefits for widows of coal miners.

Chapman is spearheading a widows' walk from Charleston, West Virginia, to the nation's capital to "bring awareness to the problem. Most people don't know what happens to widows."

Chapman spoke at the October 13 meeting of the National Black Lung Association (BLA) held at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy. The BLA organizes min-

ers and their families to fight for compensation for black lung disease, a progressive debilitating or fatal condition caused by breathing very fine coal dust.

The BLA chapter in Kanawha Valley, West Virginia, had discussed the walk before the national meeting and participants in the October 13 meeting here voted to endorse the action.

The BLA set up a committee to help organize the march, publicity, and a rally at the end. The rally is tentatively set for April 1, John Mitchell Day, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) holiday hon-

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U.S. hypocrisy on women's rights in Afghanistan — page 3

Alabama students protest racist depiction of Blacks

BY SUSAN LAMONT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—Halloween parties held by two all-white fraternities at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, have sparked widespread discussion across the state among college students and others over the state's segregationist past and how to defend the rights and dignity of Black students.

On October 27 a Delta Sigma Phi member attended the fraternity's Halloween party dressed in a hooded Ku Klux Klan sheet. He and another student—both holding rifles—flanked a third student in blackface, who had a noose around his neck. A large Confederate flag provided the backdrop. At a neighboring fraternity party, Beta Theta Pi members also came in blackface, sporting exaggerated Afro wigs, and wearing the T-shirts of Omega Psi Phi, a traditionally Black fraternity.

The two white fraternities had arranged to have a professional photographer take pictures of the events, and the pictures were posted on the World Wide Web. Frat members' girlfriends also appeared in the photos, smiling and evidently enjoying themselves. Members of Omega Psi Phi discovered the pictures and reported them to the university administration.

Widespread discussion

Since then, a widespread discussion has broken out on campuses throughout the state university system, in the media, and more broadly among working people. Much of the public reaction has been to condemn the fraternity members—not the response that would have occurred a few decades ago, when such racist displays wouldn't have caused much of a stir. Today, Black students are trying to figure out why such overt racist acts are still happening, and why they continue to face big obstacles in their fight for equality, despite the gains won by the civil rights movement. The newspapers and TV reports have also quoted some white students trivializing the actions.

The immediate response of the Auburn University administration was to denounce

the fraternity members' actions. Interim Auburn University president William Walker described them as "shocking and outrageous." Both fraternities have been suspended by the university and by their national offices, pending investigations. Auburn University is the largest school in the state university system, but it has the lowest percentage of Black students at only 7 percent.

The Black Student Union (BSU) at Auburn held a packed meeting on November 5. Many Black students on campus are calling on the university to severely punish the fraternities and students involved. An antiracist rally was held on the Auburn campus November 8, which drew Black and white students. Auburn Student Government Association president Brandon Riddick Seals, who is Black, told the *Birmingham News* that while he had considered his election a positive step for Auburn, he now questioned what progress had really been made after seeing the Halloween photos.

Threatening e-mail from KKK

A November 9 meeting of the BSU at the University of Alabama/Birmingham (UAB) drew nearly 50 students, including some who are white. In addition to protesting the Auburn events, BSU leaders wanted to make known that they had received a threatening e-mail from a Klan-minded individual.

"We're going to start a petition demanding that the UAB administration handle this threat in a prompt and serious manner, so in the future we will not have this problem," said Takara Swoopes, president of the BSU. "The BSU's purpose is to uplift Black culture with education and unity. We want to make sure that this kind of threat doesn't happen at UAB again."

The racist character of the "Greek" fraternity system has a long history in Alabama, and fits with the discrimination against Black students, faculty, and staff that is part and parcel of "higher education" in the state. Just two years ago, after a party with similar Klan costumes took place at another Auburn fra-

Health-care workers in New York State oppose threatened layoffs



Members of Local 830 of the Civil Service Employees Association picket Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, New York, against employers' plans to lay off 400 of 4,300 workers in Nassau County health system.

ternity, members received only a mild reprimand, explained Charles Johnson of the Auburn Women's Organization.

In 1991 Black students at the University of Alabama's Tuscaloosa campus held a protest after UA's Sigma Chi chapter organized a party with the theme, "Who rides the bus?" at which members of an all-white sorority appeared as pregnant Black women. In 1992 the presence of hundreds of white students waving Confederate flags at an "Old South" parade in Auburn prompted protests by Black and white students.

In early November of this year, the first Black student was finally admitted to a previously all-white fraternity at UA, the first student to break the color line among the "Greeks" at Auburn. No traditionally all-white sorority has admitted a Black member

to date.

These issues also confront students in other states. Two University of Mississippi students were recently expelled from their fraternity after an Internet photo showed one dressed as a cop holding a gun to the head of a second student, dressed in blackface. Another fraternity was suspended at the University of Louisville in Kentucky after a complaint was made that some members had dressed in blackface at a Halloween party.

Under rising pressure, the Auburn University administration suspended 15 students involved and the Auburn chapter of Beta Theta Pi has been disbanded by the fraternity's national board of trustees.

Susan LaMont is a sewing machine operator in Berry, Alabama.

Pathfinder shop in New Zealand wins backing in free speech fight

BY ARLENE TATE

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand—The fight to defend the Pathfinder Bookshop here from police harassment has been covered in the local media and is receiving support from a range of individuals and organizations.

On November 9 police officer Paul O'Neill of the Christchurch Central police station came to the bookshop, saying he was passing on "concern" from officials at the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) base about the "anti-American character" of the bookshop's window display. The shop's windows featured demands such as "End imperialist war against Afghanistan," "Oppose attacks on unions, immigrants, workers' rights," and "Build unity with struggles of working people."

Officials have stepped up security at the U.S. base and, according to the *Press*, po-

lice in the region have developed "anti-terrorist strategies." District commander Superintendent John Reilly said "police suspicions had been aroused by a few anti-American incidents in the last couple of weeks. 'People with placards that have been uncomplimentary to the United States, for example,'" the *Press* reported.

In a message of support to the Pathfinder Press Bookshop, Jim Gladwin explained that at the first meeting of the Auckland "Anti-imperialist Coalition," formed to oppose the war in Afghanistan, two policemen turned up. "They wanted to know what the meeting was about—while making no direct threats—and this was read by all present as an intimidatory 'we've got our eyes on you' threat."

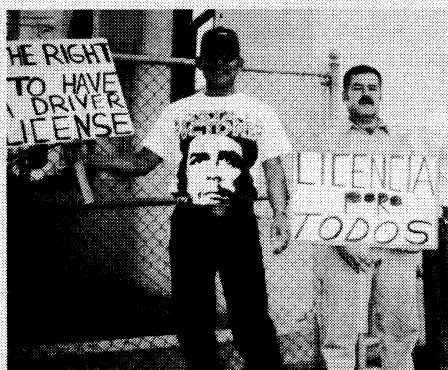
The *Press* ran an article November 16 titled "Police visit to bookshop: 'intimidation,'"

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THE MILITANT

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The history and lessons of the struggles of working people are essential for workers and farmers fighting the employers and government assault at home and abroad. From defending workers' rights, to social struggles and revolutionary battles, the 'Militant' reaches back for lessons that can be applied today.



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U.S. hypocrisy on Afghan women's rights

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Laura Bush, the wife of the U.S. president, took over George Bush's weekly radio program November 17 to give a lecture in the name of "civilized people" about the U.S. government's sincere concern for women's rights in Afghanistan.

As Washington continued to rain bombs on Afghanistan and moved to impose a pro-U.S. regime there, Mrs. Bush decried the conditions facing women under the Taliban government. The Anglo-American war, waged under the banner of "fighting terrorism," is "also a fight for the rights and dignity of women," she declared.

Adding his baritone to the feminist chorus in Washington, U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell insisted that "the rights of women in Afghanistan will not be negotiable" in the new regime the occupation powers are setting up there. Powell said the U.S. government will accept nothing short of "a restoration of the rights of the Afghani women."

Not to be outdone, Cherie Blair, wife of British prime minister Anthony Blair, said she feels the pain of Afghani women, and put the United Kingdom on record as being in favor of bringing them civilization. The Blairs, graduates of prestigious universities in London and Oxford, are of course well versed in the history of women's rights in South Asia, where women didn't win the right to vote until after they threw out British colonial rule following World War II.

Global Gag Rule

In her brief radio talk, Laura Bush didn't have time to detail the U.S. administration's sterling record of championing women's rights. On his first full day in office, on January 22, President Bush issued an executive order reinstating a 1984 measure, known as the Global Gag Rule, that bars U.S. funds to family planning organizations abroad that use even their own money for abortion-related activities—including to discuss abortion with clients, disseminate information about the right to choose, or advocate changes in abortion laws. In a bipartisan vote, the House of Representatives ratified the measure a few months later.

Women's rights organizations denounced the administration's action—which has already forced a number of women's organizations to modify their policies or decline U.S. funds, from Bangladesh and Nepal to Peru and Bolivia—as an attack both on a woman's right to choose and on free speech.

Bush has also proposed eliminating contraceptives from federal employees' health insurance plans; cutting the domestic family planning program, which provides services to millions of low-income working people; and changing existing regulations to make it harder to obtain abortion services. During the summer budget debate the White House proposed a budget that would cut off 200,000 pregnant women and young children from a food-supplement program known as WIC.

A Cotton Mather

The record of U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft, who is in the vanguard of the fight for "American values" against "terrorism," may give an idea of what Powell means by "restoring the rights of the Afghani women." Ashcroft—who reminds some of the Taliban or, more appropriately, of Cotton Mather, the Puritan witch-hunter—opposes a woman's right to choose abortion, opposes affirmative action, tried to block court-ordered desegregation plans as an attorney general in Missouri, and has praised leaders of the Confederacy as examples to emulate.

Not to be unfair, both Democrats and Republicans share responsibility for the series of measures that have chipped away at a woman's right to control her body, from the 1976 Hyde Amendment banning Medicaid funds for abortion to the passage of "parental notification" laws and the imposition of waiting periods before being allowed to receive an abortion. As of 1998, 86 percent of U.S. counties and one-third of U.S. cities had no abortion providers, a reality affecting working-class women above all.

In fact, it was William Clinton who carried through his electoral promise of getting rid of "welfare as we know it"—which overwhelmingly affects working-class women raising children alone. And the five-year cutoff for tens of thousands of women previously eligible for Aid to Families with



June 1999 rally in New Jersey supporting a woman's right to choose abortion

Dependent Children funds is now about to take effect, at a time when a recession has begun and growing numbers of working people, women and men, cannot find jobs.

In her radio address, Laura Bush condemned the Taliban for the fact that "70 percent of the Afghani people are malnour-

ished," that "one in every four children won't live past the age of five because health care is not available," and that illiteracy is high. She didn't explain how the U.S.-imposed protectorate is going to change that situation. Washington's support to the landlords and capitalists grouped in the North-

ern Alliance, whose forces were in power before the Taliban faction of landlords and capitalists, suggests that poverty, malnutrition, and illiteracy are not such a high priority for the U.S. government.

In fact, in the late 1970s, when the Afghani people did topple a hated regime and began to make some modest advances in land reform, a literacy campaign, expanded rights for women, and other progressive social measures, Washington responded with hostility, backing the landlord-capitalist forces that sought to overthrow the regime.

With so much concern for the conditions facing the Afghani people, you would think that Mrs. and Mr. Bush—and the Democrats and Republicans in Congress—would hail the accomplishments of Cuba.

After all, in Cuba working people overthrew a brutal dictatorship in 1959 and embarked on a revolution that has wiped out illiteracy, malnutrition, and landlessness. In Cuba women have broken down more barriers than anywhere in the Third World and play an active role in society.

That, however, violates a principle Washington considers much higher than their view of the rights of women—the "right" of the U.S. capitalists to freely exploit the world's resources and labor. God forbid that the Afghani people, or anyone else, might ever try to follow that example.

Pathfinder Fund supporters discuss raising goals

BY RÓGER CALERO

Coming out of a November 16 meeting featuring Pathfinder editorial director Steve Clark, supporters of the Pathfinder Fund in New York's Garment District decided to raise their goal by \$1,000 over their original target of \$5,000. New pledges of \$400 were made at the meeting and fund drive organizers decided to organize to contact readers of Pathfinder books, supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and a number of workers and young people who have been attending Militant Labor Forums in order to meet and surpass the new \$6,000 goal.

The example in New York helps point the way forward in closing the gap between the \$99,149 pledged so far and our international goal of \$125,000 to be collected by December 15.

As Washington intensifies its imperialist war against the people of Afghanistan and steps up its assaults on workers' rights in this country, workers and youth opposing imperialism rely on the books and pamphlets produced by Pathfinder Press. They not only provide a scientific understanding and a working-class explanation of these world events, but are essential in helping to advance struggles by working people and build a revolutionary leadership.

"Pathfinder is important to me, as you can see from the stack of books I bought tonight," said Maria Packman, a high school senior from Los Altos, California, at a Pathfinder Fund event in the Bay area, November 17. "It was a revelation to read about revolution," she told the audience.

"Speakers brought to life the place of Pathfinder Press in the working-class campaign against imperialism and its war," reported Katy LeRougetel about a fund-raising meeting in Toronto. Among those speaking were Osborne Hart, member of the United Food and Commercial Workers and recent Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Detroit, and Michel Prairie, Pathfinder's French-language editor and leader of the Communist League. Participants in the meeting contributed \$1,863 towards their \$2,790 local goal.

The meeting was also a celebration of the efforts of volunteers in the city to place Pathfinder titles in a greater number of commercial bookstores across the country. This has resulted in a 250 percent increase in sales of Pathfinder books and pamphlets in Canada over the past year.

In addition to paying detailed attention to the organization of successful fund-raising events, and plans for the collection of pledges and payments, local fund directors need to maintain the web-based database with the most up-to-date figures, so that they can be printed on the weekly chart.



BY BILL KALMAN

SAN FRANCISCO—"The Russian Revo-

lution opened the road to the liberation of the peoples of nations oppressed by imperialism," Ma'mud Shirvani explained to an audience of 55 people here November 17. "The capitalist hyenas—Lenin's term used in his writings in 1913 on the awakening of Asia—hope to convince the world's working class that you cannot stand up to imperialism. But the Russian Revolution proved that a working-class revolution is possible." Shirvani, the Farsi language editor for Pathfinder Press, was the featured speaker at the Pathfinder Fund meeting. He pointed out how Pathfinder books help explain the imperialist character of the U.S. war in Afghanistan, the legacy of revolutionary struggle in Asia, and the prospects for revolution in the United States today.

Meeting participants contributed an additional \$2,550 to the Pathfinder Fund, including \$725 in new pledges. This brings the total pledged by supporters in the Bay Area to \$7,585 towards a local goal of \$8,000.

Francisco Paniagua, a 40-year-old hotel chef who lives near the local Pathfinder bookstore in San Francisco, said that "every week I come to the bookstore, I find another book to read and study—it's like a university. It's very uplifting; I'm really tired from working by the end of the week, but reading the books and coming to the bookstore gives me energy."

In the discussion that followed Shirvani's presentation, Jackie Santos from Casa Puerto Rico spoke about the impact of imperialism's war in Afghanistan on the island of Vieques, part of Puerto Rico that has been used as a bombing target for decades. "They talk about national security," Santos said. "Well, the US Navy endangers the national security of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico remains a colony of U.S. imperialism. But if the Caribbean is united, we can bring the monster to its knees!"

Shirvani pointed out that he had worked on the translation into Farsi of the Pathfinder pamphlet, *Puerto Rico: Independence is a Necessity*, by veteran independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda. "It is very well received in Iran," Shirvani said, "and is an important contribution to the political education of workers there."

Shirvani pointed to the attractive display at the back of the room, featuring information on Pathfinder books that have been placed in bookstores and libraries in the Bay Area as well as the work of volunteers on the Pathfinder Reprint project to keep the titles in print and

to get pathfinderpress.com on line. The centerpiece of the display, assembled by a Pathfinder supporter, was a large colorful graph that indicated the number of books placed through appointments with book buyers. In the last seven weeks supporters of Pathfinder have placed 168 books in 10 visits. Of these, 46 were Spanish language titles. "This is an example that Pathfinder supporters everywhere can emulate," Shirvani said.

Bill Kalman is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 120 in San Lorenzo, California.

Pathfinder Fund

	Goal	Paid	%
Tucson	150	128	85%
Upper Manhattan	3,500	1,791	51%
Washington DC	3,000	1,530	51%
Allentown	1,650	750	45%
Los Angeles	8,000	2,795	35%
Des Moines	1,400	420	30%
NY Garment District	6,000	1,390	23%
Atlanta	3,200	700	22%
Detroit	3,500	750	21%
Houston	3,200	620	19%
Charlotte	3,650	700	19%
Birmingham	2,200	400	18%
San Francisco	8,000	1,450	18%
Brooklyn	3,500	525	15%
Chicago	6,000	900	15%
Pittsburgh	5,000	550	11%
Newark	3,300	414	13%
Boston	4,000	500	13%
St. Paul	3,000	300	10%
Omaha	585	50	9%
Tampa	600	30	5%
Miami	2,200	100	5%
Seattle	8,000	60	1%
Cleveland	1,500	0	0%
Philadelphia	3,000	0	0%
Western Colorado	3,200	0	0%
Other	0	1,042	0%
U.S. Total	91,335	17,895	20%
Australia	800	427	53%
Canada	4,774	1,863	39%
Sweden	600	150	25%
New Zealand	940	60	6%
United Kingdom	500	0	0%
France	200	0	0%
Iceland	0	20	0%
Int'l Total	99,149	20,415	21%
Total Should be	125,000	80,000	64%

Oppose imperialist war, study, recruit

The Young Socialists is an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information write to the Young Socialists, P.O. Box 33, Times Square Post Office, New York, NY 10108, or call (212) 695-1809, or send an e-mail to: youngsocialists@attglobal.net

BY YONATAN MOSQUERA
AND RAFAEL AYALA

LONDON—As part of the response to the imperialist war drive, members of the Young Socialists and the Communist League set up book tables in workers districts where the Pathfinder bookstore is located. These tables have been the center of lively discussions.

The YS joined a commemoration rally for the Palestinians who were killed in Sabra and Shatila in Lebanon in 1982 by Israeli-backed forces. The rally took place outside Downing Street, the home of Prime Minister Anthony Blair. We had a discussion with a young Brazilian woman, who bought a copy of the *Militant* and signed for more information about the YS. We also had a long discussion with an immigrant worker who bought two pamphlets, one on the Palestinian struggle, as well as a copy of the *Militant*. Several copies of the *Militant* were also sold.

The YS was also part of a 20,000-strong demonstration in London opposing the imperialist war in Afghanistan. We helped to sell 120 copies of the *Militant* and two subscriptions along with two copies of



Antiwar demonstration of 4,000 in Stockholm, Sweden, October 13. Young Socialists have joined with others in the campaign to tell the truth about imperialism and its wars.

Perspectiva Mundial and some \$200 worth of Pathfinder literature.

Books by Malcolm X were particularly popular among the dozens of youth who visited the Pathfinder table after the demonstration. It reflected the widespread interest in titles that tell the truth about imperialism and its wars and the racism it feeds. One of the six young people who signed up for more information about the YS that day bought a copy of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. He later said he plans to come by the bookstore and buy more books on Malcolm X.

On the last weekend of October a YS delegation from the United Kingdom traveled

to Sweden to attend the Communist League Congress. We also had an international meeting of YS members there. While in Sweden for the congress, a team of YS members from Iceland, Sweden, and the UK set up a book table at a demonstration organized by the Young Muslims in the city center. Approximately 100 people attended the action to show their opposition to the imperialist war against the peoples of Afghanistan.

Demonstrators chanted, "USA out of Afghanistan!" and "Stop Bombing Afghanistan!" Among those who welcomed our table of revolutionary literature, one young person referred to the record of imperialist aggression against the peoples of the Middle

East to explain the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He said that attacks such as those are the product of what the U.S. and other imperialist powers are doing to people around the world.

A young person who regularly attended the Militant Labor Forums in the city also attended a class on the pamphlet *Marxism and Terrorism*. He later decided to join the Young Socialists.



BY ROSA GREENE

NEW YORK—The increased interest in communist politics and literature can be seen over the last few weeks in the number of young students and workers attracted to the Young Socialists. In New York, the chapter has increased both its size and political activity recently, with stepped up sales of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Pathfinder books on campuses, in workers districts, and at plant gates.

Members and contacts of the YS have been taking part in weekly classes on New International nos. 7 and 10 and organizing a weekly YS class series on the four-part series printed in the *Militant* and PM on "Communism and labor's transformation of nature," by Steve Clark. At the second class on the *Militant* articles, YS member Elizabeth Olson pointed to the relevance of writings of Karl Marx today and the importance of closing the gap between town and country. Sam Gomez, another YS member, pointed to the citations by revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara "to establish a balance between man, nature and society."

The YS chapter also held an event November 3, organized to have the opportunity to have more discussions with young people interested in revolutionary politics and to raise funds for the local chapter and YS National Office. The \$5 admission included a dinner and a movie showing of the Cuban film *Portrait of Teresa*. Martin Koppel, the recent Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York, was invited by the YS to speak at the event. Koppel, the only candidate that campaigned in the interest of working people, pointed to the fights by farmers and workers internationally and spoke out in opposition to the U.S. war drive.

We encouraged young people who came to the event to purchase a YS pamphlet that outlines the political principles and goals of the organization. The pamphlet is available from the YS National Office for \$2. The social event was attended by more than 30 people and raised \$185. The event helped the chapter look to doing more fund-raising events and to continue the YS class series.

Amana workers in Iowa approve contract

BY JOE SWANSON

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa—About half of the 2,250 members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 1526 turned out November 11 to vote for the third time on a contract proposal from Maytag Corp., the parent company of Amana. Maytag bought Amana for nearly \$300 million in August and the IAM workers went on strike September 23.

In a 703 to 460 vote, union members approved the three-year contract. They had rejected an earlier proposal on October 21 by a vote of 980 to 243.

Chris Holder, 23, has worked on the assembly line at the Amana plant for two years. He indicated how his vote was cast by explaining that new hires will be on a two-tier setup and "it will take them up to five years to reach 100 percent of their job grade minimum. This will certainly divide the new hires from the present union workers and will weaken the union."

During the strike IAM members told the *Militant* that they earn about \$5 an hour less than workers at Maytag factories who are represented by the United Auto Workers (UAW).

"The economic conditions were getting worse and people were starting to hurt," Holder said of the pressures on the strikers. While most other jobs in the area pay between \$7 and \$10 an hour, Amana workers average about \$14. "A few union people had crossed the picket line shortly after the Oc-

tober 21 vote, although the company was getting very little production, if any, out of the work done by management and a few temp-agency workers," he said.

"I certainly think that we would have lost a lot if we had not gone on strike" said Ken Penn, who presently works on the assembly line as a valve tester and has been employed by Amana for 10 years. "We made some gains on the question of overtime," he said, "which is limited to eight hours a week after Amana's original offer was a mandatory 12 hours. On the new hires two-tier wage, although it will take five years to get to 100 percent, in Amana's original offer new hires would never reach the same wage as the present workers."

Penn said the 34 percent vote against the contract offer reflected the fact that there is no improvement in the health insurance pack-

age over Amana's original offer. Starting next September, "the workers will have to pay out twice as much over the last contract," he said, "and many see this as a setback."

In a phone interview a few days after union members returned to work, Penn said the company "is upset that we went on strike. They tested us right away by trying to take away our personal breaks the first night and said we have to work two hours overtime on November 21, which would put us into the Thanksgiving holiday. The union workers said no to both and the company backed off, which shows there is a lot of fight left in the union members."

Peter Seidman, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and a meat packer in Marshalltown, Iowa, contributed to this article.

Auto workers in Detroit protest forced overtime

BY ELLEN BERMAN

DETROIT—"Nobody wants to go on strike, but you don't want to get beat up every day," said one 20-year auto worker about his union's decision to strike DaimlerChrysler's Toledo Jeep plant to protest extensive forced overtime while union members are on layoff. Workers blame the long hours and increased line speed for strained backs, shoulders, and legs.

Tired of months of the auto giant's scheduling of 60-hour workweeks, speedup on the assembly line, and increasing on-the-job injuries, workers at DaimlerChrysler's three Jeep plants in Toledo, Ohio, voted November 13 to authorize a strike if no resolution is reached with the company within 60 days. Eighty-eight percent of the 2,800 union members who voted were in favor of the strike authorization. The three-factory Jeep

assembly plant employs 4,200 workers.

Production of the new Jeep Liberty began in June at the \$750 million state-of-the-art Toledo North Assembly Plant. At that time, DaimlerChrysler cut production of the Jeep Cherokee and Jeep Wrangler, laying off about 1,770 of 5,650 workers.

One of the demands of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 12 is that the company follow through on its original commitment to add a third shift and call back many of the laid-off workers, instead of continuing the mandatory 10-hour days and frequent overtime on Saturdays. According to Bruce Baumhower, president of UAW Local 12, it now looks like the bosses won't decide on adding a third shift until spring. Another concern is the use of contractors to do work that could be done by union members inside the plant.

The Liberty is one of DaimlerChrysler's "few hot products" according to David Healy, an automotive industry analyst with Burnham Securities. DaimlerChrysler's U.S. unit, the third-largest automaker in America, wants to regain a 14 percent U.S. market share as part of its three-year turnaround plan, after falling to 13.4 percent in the first nine months of 2001. Chrysler chief executive Dieter Zetsche has said strong Liberty sales are vital to the unit breaking even next year and making a profit in 2003.

The union has to give seven days notice before walking out. This would be the first strike since 1977 when the factory was owned by American Motors Corp.

Rally opposes U.S. intervention in the Philippines

BY RICK TRUJILLO

SAN FRANCISCO—In her first visit to the United States since taking over the presidency of the Philippines with military backing, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was greeted by wealthy supporters at a banquet near here November 14.

Outside, more than 130 Filipino protesters, mostly youth from a nearby college and high school, condemned the growing U.S. military intervention in the Philippines, including the sending of 23 U.S. military advisers to the country.

"Ushering in the U.S. military will again bring more violence to the Philippines along with prostitution and more toxic wastes," Rhonda Lee Ramiro, chair of the Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, told KRON TV news. Members of nine organizations that formed the Bay Area Filipino Coalition for Global Justice, Not War, par-

ticipated in the action.

"As the U.S. war on terrorism continues, so will the militarization of our country," said Kawal Ulandy, a youth organizer with Filipinos for Affirmative Action. Among the signs carried by the pickets were, "Defend Filipino Sovereignty!" and "U.S. bases = Terrorism in the Philippines!" Several speakers at the action pointed to the history of Washington's wars—from Vietnam to Central America and Iraq—as evidence that U.S. imperialism is the number one terrorist in the world. In addition to denouncing the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan, speakers explained that working people in the country face poverty, hunger, joblessness, lack of medical attention, and brutal repression of national minorities and Muslims.

President Arroyo is scheduled to meet with U.S. president George Bush this week. Topping the list of subjects to be discussed is in-

creased military aid to the Philippines. "This international coalition against terrorism will enable cooperation not only in fighting terrorists in Afghanistan but also...in the Philippines," Arroyo said in a recent interview. Tipping her hat to the deep-going economic crisis in the Philippines, Arroyo stated, "While evil is the source of terrorism, evil can find its allies among the very poor."

"We need to modernize and better equip our military," Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes added.

Washington's long history of military intervention in the Philippines, includes maintaining two huge bases in the country until 1992. It backed the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled the archipelago with an iron grip from 1965-86 that featured eight years of martial law. Rising protests against the Marcos regime also led to growing opposition to Washington's military bases there.

Sales drive extended to build on momentum

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The international subscription drive to win new readers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* has picked up momentum in a number of cities in the United States, Canada and Australia. Participants in the campaign are encountering a good response among the growing numbers of workers and youth who are questioning and starting to oppose the imperialist intervention in Afghanistan and the U.S. rulers' attacks on workers' rights.

Socialist workers in the United States have reported increased interest in the *Militant's* coverage of struggles to defend workers' rights, including that of Michael Itale in Miami, the campaign to free the five Cubans locked up in U.S. prisons, and the students and workers from the Midwest who are being questioned by the FBI. The government's threat to place "suspect" noncitizens before military tribunals, with all the rights of a kangaroo court, and the broader spying by the secret police, are meeting resistance among working people and youth.

In some places the drive has gone over the top and partisans are pressing to get more subscriptions. With our sales on the uptick amid the increasing interest, we want to take advantage of this momentum by extending the sales drive until December 9.

We encourage socialist workers and Young Socialists in every city to discuss this political conjuncture, and to work at using the additional time in the campaign to meet all our goals coming out of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in the United States. All subscriptions received at the *Militant* business office by noon on Wednesday, December 12, will count toward the drive.

In Des Moines, Iowa, *Militant* campaigners went over the top, reports Joe Swanson this week. "We sold six *Militant* subscriptions in the past seven days, including one to a co-worker at the packinghouse in Marshalltown, Iowa, and three to workers in the working-class district where our hall is located. One of the subscriptions was sold to a young construction worker who is very interested in the *Militant's*

subscriptions we sold to co-workers at the meatpacking plants this past week will be the first ones on our paper route in St. Paul."

Over the past weeks the *Militant* has received consistent, almost daily reports from socialists who work in meatpacking plants. Their approach appears to be paying off as they are closing in on their *Militant* goal and have surpassed their target for PM. In Detroit two young meat packers bought subscriptions in the plant where Osborne Hart works. One of the workers had heard about Hart's campaign as the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor and asked him for some campaign literature. After reading it and talking some more he bought the subscription, and now plans to attend the next *Militant* Labor Forum. "We are targeting two more co-workers who expressed some interest in the paper earlier in the campaign," says Hart.

"In our drive to make our goals this week we set up literature tables on campus and in our workers district where we also went door to door," writes Jacquie Henderson from Houston. "We also called people we had met in previous weeks and made arrangements to pick up subscriptions from co-workers we had discussed politics with for the past several weeks. As a result we ended up going over our *Militant* goal by five!"

Students interested in free speech fight

Henderson said when they went to the University of Houston they met students who wanted to know more about the case of Mike Itale, the socialist worker in Miami fired from his job for expressing his opposition to the imperialist war in Afghanistan, defense of the Cuban Revolution, and other political views. "We sold Pathfinder books and two subscriptions there, along with several copies of the *Militant*," she notes. One student who bought a subscription also got a copy of *New International* no. 7, which features the article "Opening Guns of Work War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq."

Henderson writes that they sold three *Militant* subscriptions and another copy of the same issue of *New International* at Houston Community College. "As at the University of Houston, we found a lot of interest in our new class series on this issue of *New International*,

and others we have scheduled on nos. 10 and 11 of the Marxist magazine. Several students also signed our petition to protest the firing of Mike Itale."

Tony Dutrow from Houston reports that a co-worker who recently subscribed to PM especially likes its coverage of Cuba. The meat packer told Dutrow that he has been interested in the Cuban Revolution since he met Cuban agricultural teachers in the rural area of Mexico that he comes from.

Using sales drive for recruitment

"This past Sunday a young Dominican worker joined with us selling at our literature table," reports Ruth Harris from Upper Manhattan. "We met him earlier in the campaign when he bought a subscription to the *Militant*, started coming to *Militant* Labor Forums, and participating in a class series we have been doing on NI no. 7. All of this helped him decide to join the Young Socialists."

"Tonight we made our goal of selling 65 *Militant* subscriptions," adds Harris. "We were helped by another Dominican worker whom we met during the last subscription campaign. He renewed his *Militant* subscription and has started coming to *Militant* Labor Forums. One campaign supporter sold two subscriptions to co-workers. Over the last 10 days, we have sold 25 *Militant* subscriptions, eight PM subscriptions, and three copies of *New International*."

Rollande Girard reports that partisans of the socialist press in San Francisco joined a November 18 march to defend immigrants' rights in Oakland, California. "Around 120 people, mostly of Mexican origin, participated in the action. The protest demanded the right to a driver's license, to a social security card, and for the legalization of all the workers. It also called for an end to police brutality and the unjustified imprisonment of immigrants. Another march and meeting are planned for November 24 in Hayward, California."

Girard adds that they sold three subscriptions to PM, a copy of *Nueva Internacional* no. 5, which con-



Militant/Phil Duzinski
Students discuss politics at book table at Houston Community College. Three purchased *Militant* subscriptions and one bought copy of *New International*.

tains the article "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War," and the pamphlet, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial subscription campaign—week 8 Sept. 22–Dec. 9

Country	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Sweden*	18	18	100%	4	4	12	16
United Kingdom	35	35	100%	10	11	20	25
Canada							
Vancouver	15	14	93%	3	4	20	7
Montreal	12	11	92%	5	4	20	12
Toronto	17	15	88%	5	1	17	12
Canada total	44	40	91%	13	9	57	31
Australia	16	14	88%	4	4	16	14
United States							
Seattle	25	30	120%	10	7	25	20
Houston	30	35	117%	15	6	45	19
Des Moines	30	33	110%	20	21	15	17
Boston*	30	32	107%	13	11	25	16
Twin Cities*	45	48	107%	20	35	30	30
Philadelphia	25	26	104%	10	6	20	8
Detroit	35	35	100%	10	8	30	18
Tucson	7	7	100%	1	1	6	6
Upper Manhattan	65	65	100%	50	29	40	22
Western Colorado	30	30	100%	8	8	15	4
Charlotte	16	15	94%	6	2	25	7
Atlanta	36	29	81%	15	12	35	23
Miami	20	16	80%	20	8	25	17
Omaha	11	8	73%	15	7	10	11
Los Angeles	50	36	72%	30	16	25	21
Pittsburgh	40	28	70%	5	0	25	10
Newark	45	31	69%	30	8	30	10
San Francisco	50	31	62%	25	19	40	18
Allentown	25	15	60%	5	4	10	6
Chicago	45	27	60%	30	7	35	20
NY Garment Dist.	100	60	60%	50	23	55	32
Cleveland	25	12	48%	4	4	20	15
Washington	25	12	48%	20	9	10	8
Brooklyn	60	28	47%	30	27	70	39
Tampa	12	5	42%	5	3	14	10
Birmingham	20	6	30%	3	5	20	3
U.S. total	902	700	78%	450	286	700	410
New Zealand							
Auckland	10	6	60%	1	1	8	5
Christchurch	7	4	57%	1	0	3	2
N.Z. total	17	10	59%	2	1	11	7
Iceland	8	4	50%	2	0		
Int'l totals	1040	821	75%	485	315	737	503
Goal/Should be	1100	880	80%	500	400	800	640

IN THE UNIONS

	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
United States							
UAW	5	6	120%			4	1
UFCW	55	51	93%	55	59	70	44
UNITE	35	11	31%	35	10	55	9
UMWA	20	6	30%	2	0	15	3
Total	115	74	64%	92	69	144	57
New Zealand							
NDU	2	1	50%			1	0
MWU	2	1	50%			2	0
Total	4	2	50%			3	0
Australia							
AMIEU	3	2	67%			1	1
MUA*	2	0	0%			5	3
Total	5	2	40%				
Canada							
UFCW	5	1	20%	1	0	8	4
UNITE	5	0	0%	2	3	3	0
Total	10	1	10%	3	3	11	4
raised goal*							



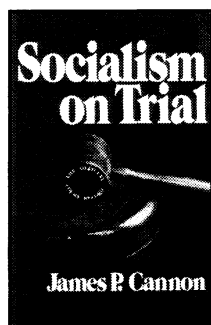
Militant/Lea Sherman
Militant campaigner sells paper at plant gate of Holly Sugar in Worland, Wyoming, November 12. Many workers were interested in coverage of labor struggles.

coverage of the imperialist war at home and abroad. I sat down and went through some of the political questions covered in *New International* and the importance of those articles for understanding politics and struggles taking place today. He decided to buy nos. 7, 10, and 11 of *New International*. He also said he would like to attend *Militant* Labor Forums, and plans to come to the one scheduled for December 2 featuring Arrin Hawkins, a YS leader and meat packer in Chicago."

"We've gone past our goals in the campaign and have adopted paper delivery routes for co-workers and others who choose to get their subscription that way," writes Francisco Picado from Minnesota. "We saw the potential that having a paper delivery service opens up for our political work in the workers district here. In fact, a couple of the

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U.S. intensifies assault and establishes bases

Continued from front page

do not have the means to accommodate the request.

The U.S. command has been steadily increasing the number of its special forces operating in Afghanistan, with more than 300 troops now on the ground in the north and south of the country. Some have been involved in combat, securing roads, blowing up bridges, setting targets for the U.S. warplanes, and scouting out additional landing fields for military aircraft.

They complement a 150-member secret CIA paramilitary outfit, known as the Special Activities Division, which, according to a *Washington Post* report, has been operating inside Afghanistan since late September. There are also two Marine Expeditionary units—each involving 2,200 marines—now stationed on ships in the Arabian Sea ready to be deployed to Afghanistan as part of the military's special operations forces.

U.S., British forces seize airfields

With the fall of the capital city of Kabul to the Northern Alliance forces, 120 British soldiers and 40 U.S. troops immediately seized control of the Bagram airfield north of Kabul. They began repairing and upgrading the runway for use by much larger military aircraft that will bring additional troops and military supplies. Eight C-130 aircraft—six British and two from the United States—landed at the airfield to reinforce their position.

Other air bases in the north and west of the country are being prepared for U.S. military use, giving Washington a range of land bases in the region. The U.S. military is moving three AC-130 gunships for use in the assault on Kunduz to a base it has occupied in Uzbekistan.

British defense secretary Geoffrey Hoon described this operation as the beginning of a "stabilization mission," which will involve much larger numbers of troops. Britain had placed 6,000 soldiers on alert for active duty in Afghanistan but their immediate deployment was temporarily put on hold when several factions within the Northern Alliance expressed opposition to the stationing of British troops within the country, much to London's anger.

The French government, which did not offer forces to be placed at Washington's disposal in the war, announced that as part of a larger deployment of 2,000 it is planning to station some 300 troops by the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif. The soldiers were sent to Uzbekistan November 16, from where they were to travel by land and take up positions around the airfield outside the city. By November 20, however, U.S. newspapers were quoting Pentagon sources stating that few French or British troops would be needed anytime soon.

In addition, the Italian government has voted to deploy 2,700 troops. Germany with 3,900, Canada with 1,000, and Australia with 1,550 are among a growing list of im-

perialist governments rushing to join the occupation force being put in place.

Facing some opposition from the Green Party, German chancellor Gerhard Schröder tested his proposal to deploy the troops in a parliamentary vote of confidence. The eight legislators from the Green Party, which together with Schröder's Social Democratic Party forms the ruling coalition, decided to split their vote on the issue to keep the government alive. Four who had previously stated their opposition to the war reversed course to keep their party in power. This will be the first deployment beyond Europe of German troops in a combat role since 1945.

Most intense U.S. bombardment

Hundreds have been killed in and around the cities of Kunduz in the north and Kandahar in the south as wave after wave of U.S. warplanes, including B-52s, carry out massive carpet bombing of large sections of the cities. Thousands of Taliban troops are entrenched in Kunduz, some wanting to surrender, others wanting to fight to the death.

According to the November 19 online edition of the London-based *Independent*, some 150 unarmed Afghan civilians in one densely populated frontline town were killed in this assault. The paper reports that refugees fleeing the town of Khanabad said that "American planes had bombed in the area a few miles from Kunduz daily since Thursday [November 15], seemingly oblivious to the fact that the buildings they were bombing were civilian homes."

Zumeray, one of the refugees, told the *Independent*, "I saw 20 dead children on the streets. Forty people were killed yesterday alone. I saw it with my own eyes. Some of them were burned by the bombs, others were crushed by the walls and roofs of their houses when they collapsed from the blast."

U.S. warplanes also continued to pummel Kandahar and hundreds of caves and tunnels in the area. "It's a process of elimination," a Pentagon official stated snidely. "You hit on a cave; see where they run to, and then hit that cave. We're working our way across the entire country that way."

The U.S. military has also been dropping bombs in areas near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, where many refugees are attempting to flee to safety. The Afghan Islamic Press, a Pakistan-based news service, reports that 30 people were killed November 18 in one such raid in the east Afghan province of Nangarhar, just five miles from the border. Pakistani officials report that U.S. planes also attacked the village of Shabquadar in northwestern Pakistan, on the grounds that a truck was allegedly carrying Taliban soldiers.

According to Human Rights Watch, some 5,000 unexploded and highly volatile cluster bomblets—which scatter throughout any area anytime the antipersonnel cluster bombs are dropped—are littered throughout Afghanistan. Civilian casualties near the Afghan city of Jalalabad have already occurred as a



Northern Alliance forces watch U.S. bombing of Kunduz. The alliance has engaged in little fighting as Taliban units withdrew from most major cities in face of a massive bombing campaign by imperialist forces.

result of coming into contact with these unexploded bombs. Many of these bombs are the same color as the food packs that were also dropped by Washington. Since October 7, Washington has dropped more than 8,000 bombs on the Afghan people.

Despite the rapid loss of control of two-thirds of the country by Taliban forces, Bush administration officials have emphasized that the war could go on for quite a while and involve a much larger component of ground forces. Condoleezza Rice, the White House National Security Adviser, declared on CNN's "Late Edition" November 19 that the administration was "not proceeding as if this war is nearing conclusion," nor was it "making any predictions about how long that will take."

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz called for "keep[ing] our focus right now on Afghanistan," and added, "There's a great danger that we're going to declare victory before we've achieved our objectives there."

Bush's dictates at the UN

In prosecuting its imperialist war, Washington is making it clear that their battle is with the Taliban government, not against Osama bin Laden or his al-Qaeda organization. Bush drove this point home in his November 10 speech to the United Nations.

As B-52s rained down bombs from 35,000 feet, Bush said that the "civilized world is now responding," choosing "dignity of life over a culture of death," and "lawful change and civil disagreement over coercion, subversion, and chaos." Notwithstanding the extent of the hypocrisy coming from the mouth of the commander-in-chief of the most powerfully armed government with military forces on every continent, Bush's main point was to tell "all nations" to "carefully consider their responsibilities and their future."

For every government that Washington decides is "sponsoring terror, there is a price to be paid. And it will be paid," Bush said. "The Taliban are now learning this lesson," he added. Bush ticked off what is expected of other governments: "a responsibility to crack down on terrorist financing [and] to share intelligence and coordinate the efforts of law enforcement. If you know something, tell us." The U.S. president told the assembled representatives of governments around the world that they must "deny any sanctuary, safe haven, or transit to terrorists. Every known terrorist camp must be shut down, its operators apprehended, and evidence of their arrest presented to the United Nations. We have a responsibility to deny weapons to terrorists and to actively prevent private citizens from providing them."

To make sure that no one missed the point, Bush added that these obligations "are binding on every nation with a place in this chamber." Those who do not heed, he said, "will know the consequences."

Meeting to impose U.S.-backed regime

With the collapse of the Taliban forces in Kabul, the Northern Alliance moved in to take control of the capital. Their troops patrol the streets and they have taken over key offices, moving staff into the defense, interior, and foreign ministries, as well as Radio Kabul.

"By seizing the levers of power, the Northern Alliance risks establishing a *fait accompli*," notes the *Washington Post*. "That would present problems" for those seeking to impose a more stable U.S.-backed regime.

Russia, which has supported the Northern Alliance with substantial military aid in their fight against the Taliban, promptly announced that they were sending officials to Kabul to

make contact with the alliance, described by Russian defense minister Sergei Ivanov as the "lawful government" of Afghanistan.

Some 50,000 people were killed in Afghanistan in the early 1990s as a result of the land grabs, turf wars, and repression against the peoples of Afghanistan by the various factions that comprised the ruling Northern Alliance government until they were ousted in the mid-1990s by the Taliban.

With the Taliban no longer in control of most major cities in the country, many of the same corrupt, hated figures are reappearing and proclaiming themselves to be back in charge. Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, notorious for his brutal behavior toward soldiers and civilians, is back in power in northern Mazar-i-Sharif. And Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who, according to a *Times* article, "turned much of Kabul into rubble in the early 1990s," has asked Pakistani authorities for permission to return to the border town of Peshawar "so he can cross into Afghanistan and proclaim himself a provincial governor."

Under pressure from Washington, the Northern Alliance factions agreed to attend an international conference in Germany where a new U.S.-sanctioned government will be assembled, together with an imperialist occupation force under United Nations cover. The capitalist media describes Washington's policy toward this conference as one of seeking to provide the Afghan people with a more "broad-based government" beyond the minority of the population represented by the Northern Alliance—code words for imposing a U.S. protectorate in Afghanistan.

Next target Iraq?

Some leading government officials are urging President Bush to unleash a massive bombing of Iraq as the next phase of the administration's "war against terrorism." According to the November 19 *USA Today*, "Proponents of attacking Iraq, spearheaded by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, are now arguing privately that still-elusive evidence linking Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime to the terrorist attacks September 11 is not necessary to trigger a military strike." Without offering a shred of proof, John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control, recently asserted, "The existence of Iraq's [biological weapons] program is beyond dispute."

The administration's next move, argues *New York Times* columnist William Safire, is to embark on "Phase II." This would involve the bombardment of Iraq with the aim of once again attempting to topple the Hussein government. The justification for this attack, he indicated, would be the Iraqi government's stance in defense of national sovereignty against allowing UN inspectors to once again enter the country to supposedly search for weapons of mass destruction. "Baghdad is now the world center of state terrorism," asserts Safire. "Phase II in the war on terror is only a matter of time." As a boost to this position, Safire cites recent comments by Condoleezza Rice on the "Meet the Press" TV news show. "We do not need the events of September 11 to tell us that this is a very dangerous man who is a threat to his own people, a threat to the region and a threat to us," she stated.

Washington announced in mid-November that it is sending an extra 2,000 troops to Kuwait over the next two weeks as a "deterrent to Iraq," according to U.S. officials cited in the *Financial Times*. There are already 5,000 U.S. troops stationed in Kuwait. The newly deployed troops will arrive in time to participate in a training exercise code-named "Desert Spring."

New International

No. 11

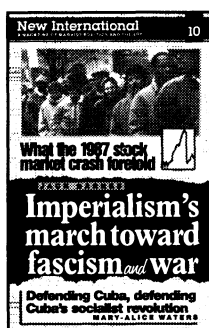
U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

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Two programmatic documents of the Socialist Workers Party. **\$14.00**



No. 10

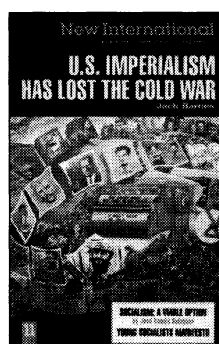
Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War by Jack Barnes.

What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold.

Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution by Mary-Alice Waters.

The Curve of Capitalist Development by Leon

Trotsky. **\$14.00**



Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.

Bush faces divisions in assault on rights

Continued from front page

Bill of Rights are U.S. senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, conservative columnist William Safire, *Barron's*, and a column in the *Wall Street Journal* by Robert Levy of the Cato Institute.

"It is difficult to understand how the administration can justify the use of a tribunal when the United States has successfully tried in our courts noncitizens accused of terrorist acts," said Laura Murphy, director of the American Civil Liberties Union National Office. "This latest move, combined with the Justice Department's announced intentions to eavesdrop on attorney conversations with inmates and to begin interviewing foreign visitors to the United States, demonstrates the government's increasing willingness to circumvent the requirements of the Bill of Rights."

Leahy, a Democrat, said the "implications of the president's order...sends a message to the world that it is acceptable to hold secret trials and summary executions, without the possibility of judicial review."

Barron's, a conservative business newspaper, in an editorial called, "Dangerous Justice," said: "Every article of the Bill of Rights reflects the Founding Fathers' experience with the evils springing from justice that was too swift, too arbitrary, too militaristic, too cloaked in necessity."

Outside of Constitutional protections

In announcing the military tribunals, Bush administration officials put on a full-court press. "It's important to understand that we are at war now," said U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft at a November 14 press conference. "Foreign terrorists who commit war crimes against the United States, in my judgment are not entitled to, do not deserve the protections of the American Constitution."

Those accused of terrorism "don't deserve the same guarantees and safeguards that would be used for an American citizen going through the normal judicial process," echoed U.S. vice president Richard Cheney.

Bush declared the executive order was needed because an "extraordinary emergency exists" due to "potential acts of terrorism against the United States." The Bush administration claims it has authority to set up the tribunals under the September 14 resolutions in the House and Senate authorizing action against those who "planned, authorized, committed or aided" the attacks on September 11. Administration officials also point to the use of tribunals by U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt during World War II.

Under Bush's executive order, anyone who is not a citizen can be hauled before a panel of military officers if the U.S. president says he has "reason to believe" the person is a member of Al Qaeda, or had planned a terrorist attack, or harbored such a person. The defendant would not have the right to choose a lawyer nor be tried by a jury. Instead of jurors, a panel of military officers would render judgment. Military tribunals are not military courts, in which U.S. citizens in the armed forces have the right to a jury trial. Unlike the military tribunal, a court-martial requires proof beyond reasonable doubt for conviction, and the death penalty cannot be imposed without a unanimous verdict. A two-thirds majority is sufficient for conviction in a military tribunal.

The military tribunal will accept evidence such as hearsay and illegally seized material, which would normally be thrown out of regular courts. The trials could be held in secret—even on ships at sea—with the defendant having limited access to "intelligence reports" that form the basis for convictions. There will be no judicial review. Once in the clutches of the tribunal based on "suspicion" of terrorism, the accused can be tried for any offense.

Deportations to extract information

Under the order, the secretary of defense can "transfer to a government authority control of any individual," a phrase that could easily be construed to allow deportation, without conviction or trial, "to a country that would be more willing than the U.S. to extract information by torture," one columnist pointed out.

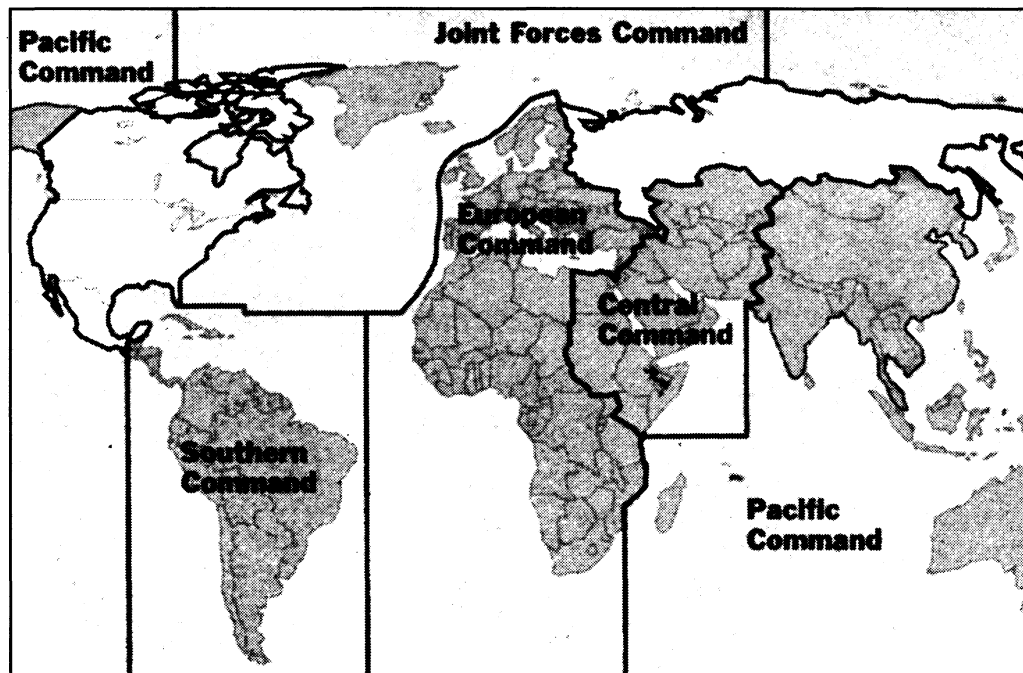
U.S. government officials said November 14 that the Pentagon and Justice Department were preparing for the "possibility of moving some detainees to military custody,"

which included "looking at the administrative procedures that would have to be followed," the *New York Times* reported. The next day Justice Department officials backed off, saying they were unaware of plans to put the immigrants into military custody.

"I had no idea they were going to try to use [military tribunals] for domestically detained people. It scares the hell out of me, I'll tell you that," said Kevin Ernst, a Detroit lawyer representing Farouk Ali-Hamoud, who was held in jail for 25 days on immigration fraud charges before his

these government assaults are seven immigrants held at the Hudson County Correctional Center in New Jersey. They are among the at least 1,200 people rounded up by federal, state, and local police agencies, supposedly in connection with the September 11 events, although none have yet been charged with such an offense. The seven have been waging a hunger strike to protest their treatment by INS officials and to demand they be given information about their cases.

Nancy Oden, a leader of the Green Party



Washington's military commands that cover every part of the world outside North America and Russia. A North American command was set up under the Clinton administration and codified by Bush with establishment of Office of Homeland Defense. As we go to press the *Washington Post* reports that the Pentagon will propose appointing a four-star commander for federal troops used in homeland defense. "We think it's time to clarify things," said one official, and "quickly pin the rose on some four-star commander." The Pentagon says it will review regular and National Guard troops to be allocated for homeland assignment. U.S. senator John Warner is reported to be preparing legislation to repeal the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which prohibits use of federal troops on U.S. soil.

case was dismissed.

In a column in the *Wall Street Journal*, Robert Levy makes the point that the U.S. Constitution "applies to all 'persons,' not just citizens." He says the "Bush tribunals could unleash an ugly and dangerous breed of justice," one lacking "due process guarantees." Levy points out that the "Bush executive order takes a perilous step toward eviscerating the time-honored doctrine of the separation of powers, a centerpiece of our Constitution. Too much unchecked power is vested in a single branch of government."

Protests by workers and students

Among those mounting protests against

USA, has initiated a Bill of Rights Defense Committee after being detained while checking in for a flight at the airport in Bangor, Maine. Oden, on her way to Chicago for a leadership meeting of her party, was singled out for a security check and escorted out of the airport by National Guard troops and security agents who claimed she was not cooperative. Oden says she was singled out for her opposition to the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

"It's clear to me that the American people support the Bill of Rights," Oden said in a phone interview. The new committee aims to "defend the Bill of Rights from being abrogated," the Green Party USA leader said.

And in Miami, Michael Italie and Mohammad Rahat, both fired from their jobs for political reasons, have launched fights to defend freedom of speech and to be reinstated with their employers.

Ghaith Aljazzar, president of the Muslim Student Union at the University of California at Irvine, spoke out after being approached by government snoops a few days after he had addressed a peace rally. The federal agents said he was among some 5,000 men they are questioning. Most are from the Middle East and are legally in the United States. Aljazzar said the agents interrogated him about the political views of his organization and the extent of opposition to government policies on the campus.

"There is a great deal of fear" of government interrogations, explained Mahmoud Abdel-Baset, religious director of the Islamic Center of Southern California. "Many of us came from police states, where people can be detained for no good reason. We are used to not trusting the government, and I don't think the attorney general's tone or his words are reassuring anybody."

The next day, FBI agents on the other side of the country with guns drawn raided the home of the Chester, Pennsylvania, health commissioner, Dr. Irshad Shaikh, a Pakistani immigrant. The cops that morning also broke down the door of Asif Kazi, a friend born in Pakistan, and held his wife at gunpoint. No one was charged with any crime and the FBI offered no information on why they raided the homes other than that they were "acting on credible information."

"I'm still in trauma. I cannot sleep properly. I cannot eat," said Kazi, a U.S. citizen who was hired as a city accountant last year. "You are worried about the fear of the unknown. What's going to happen next?"

One recent detainee, Mohammad Yaseen Haider, president of the Pakistan Student Association at the University of Oklahoma, faced immigration charges November 15. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials would not say what Haider is charged with. He attracted public attention when he complained to the cops and university officials in Norman, Oklahoma, about three men who assaulted him shouting racial slurs in the parking lot of a convenience store where he worked. Sometime later FBI agents came into the picture, asking the local cops for copies of his complaint.

Modern proconsuls

A new initiative to integrate U.S. military commands abroad with domestic secret

Continued on Page 14

Books for working people and youth fighting imperialism and its war

Che Guevara Talks to Young People

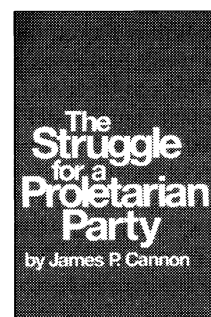
Ernesto Che Guevara, drawing on his experience as a leader of the Cuban revolution, talks as an equal with youth of Cuba and the world. In English and in Spanish. **\$12** (regular \$14.95)

Malcolm X Talks to Young People

Includes Malcolm X's condemnation of imperialist wars in the Congo, Vietnam, and elsewhere. **\$9** (regular price \$10.95)

The Struggle for a Proletarian Party

By James P. Cannon



A founder of the communist movement in the U.S. and leader of the Communist International during Lenin's time defends the proletarian program and party building norms of Bolshevism on the eve of World War II. **\$21.95**

Capitalism's World Disorder:

Working-Class Politics at the Millennium by Jack Barnes

The accelerating social devastation, police brutality, and military assaults are the inevitable forces unleashed by capitalism. But the future capitalism has in store can be changed by the united struggle of workers and farmers conscious of their power to transform the world. In French, English, and Spanish. **\$20** (Regular \$23.95)

New International no. 7

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III

The U.S. government's murderous assault on Iraq heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, the rise of rightist and fascist forces, growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars. **\$12**

Also by Jack Barnes

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

Discusses the struggles in the imperialist heartland and the example of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. **\$10** (Regular \$13.00)

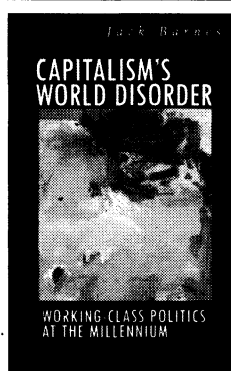
See directory on page 12

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

A handbook for the new generation coming into the factories, mines, and mills as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality of capitalism today. In French, English, and Spanish. **\$16** (Regular \$19.95)

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

"Until society is reorganized so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die, there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity." In French, English, Icelandic, Spanish, and Swedish. **\$3**



from Pathfinder

Young Socialists: revolution is needed

Continued from front page

word about his fight and about others victimized for speaking out against Washington's imperialist war in Afghanistan," he said. "Many young people who want to fight around this issue will also be interested in the Young Socialists."

Sixty people, including some 40 students and young workers from around the country, participated in the public forum, panel discussion, social, and other events over the weekend. Two Young Socialists from Canada also attended.

Coming out of the weekend the leadership of the Young Socialists, together with the Socialist Workers Party, proposed to the *Militant* extending the circulation drive until December 9 in order to build on the momentum of the YS meeting and the response by workers and students to the socialist periodicals, *New International*, and Pathfinder books. The *Militant* editor and business manager welcomed the proposal (see article page 5).

The conference registered the accomplishments of the communist movement since the YS launched a campaign to double its membership in March of this year. Young Socialists celebrated the victory of doubling both the size of their organization in the United States and internationally.

The Saturday session included presentations in the afternoon on the working-class campaign against imperialism and war and on the Mike Italie campaign, and a panel of YS leaders and other youth in the evening. Both were open to the public. Olympia Newton welcomed everyone to the weekend on behalf of the YS National Executive Committee. Through participating and helping lead the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange and the U.S. delegation at the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students in Algeria last summer, as well as through joining the working-class campaign against imperialism and war this fall, the YS is politically stronger, has a wider geographic spread, and is numerically larger, she said. Newton reported on similar developments with the YS in Iceland, Sweden, Britain, and New Zealand.

Newton said the Young Socialists' internationalist perspective sends it to other countries to expand the reach of communist literature. "YS members are joining socialist workers next week for the Guadalajara Book Fair," she said. "They will staff a Pathfinder booth to help get the books into the hands of revolutionary-minded workers and youth in Mexico."

Mike Italie speaks out for free speech

Mike Italie spoke about the campaign to defend freedom of speech and to win his job back. Italie was fired from his garment job at Goodwill Industries after he spoke in a public debate with other mayoral candidates in Miami where he opposed the imperialist assault on Afghanistan and defended the Cuban Revolution. He read a statement sent to the meeting by Mohammad Rahat, a 22-year-old student who was fired from his job at the University of Miami for a few words a co-worker overheard him say around the events on September 11 (see article page 9).

"My supporters are waging a nationwide campaign because this is an attack on rights that affects all workers around the country. More people are standing up to defend our rights that are under attack," Italie said. "Mohammad Rahat won't be intimidated. I won't be intimidated and I want to encourage everyone here to go back to your cities and win support for this campaign," he concluded.

Norton Sandler, a National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party, spoke on the accelerating political trends in world and U.S. politics since Washington launched its most recent war drive September 11. He pointed to the decade-long attacks on workers' democratic rights that have accompanied the driving down of wages, working conditions, and the social wage by the capitalist rulers.

The U.S. imperialists have a triumphalist stance right now because of their victory against an unpopular regime in an impoverished country, he said. But in reality, the system of imperialist exploitation and oppression that Washington dominates is weaker today. For a period coming out of World War II Washington could use its growing economic power to maintain its domi-

nation over much of the semicolonial world. Now they are forced to wage war and set up garrisons in country after country in order to keep some semblance of stability, he said.

The most brutal empire won't go down gently, Sandler said. That's why the working-class needs a political party that is part of an international movement capable of leading working people in the future battles to bring the last empire to an end. Sandler urged participants to purchase and study *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, a book by SWP leader Jack Barnes that presents the line of march of the working class to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and establish workers and farmers governments that will lead tens of millions in the struggle to overturn capi-

shop, and a minimart in Seattle and four other cities November 7 under the pretext of fighting against fund-raisers for "terrorist" organizations. The Pathfinder bookstore in Seattle is located above the offices raided by FBI and other federal cops.

"That same day, some 15 people, mainly Somalis, set up a picket line to protest, chanting 'stop the war, open the store, we don't want your racist war,'" said Williamson. Communists joined the picket line and subsequent actions against the rulers' assault on democratic rights. The protests have been confronted by groupings of several rightists praising the cops' assault with their own picket across the street.

Rosa Green, a garment worker and New York chapter organizer, described the re-

Jack Willey described the emerging anti-imperialist movement worldwide, which includes toilers from the semicolonial and imperialist countries. This was demonstrated at the Algiers festival in August and a similar festival four years earlier in Cuba. This movement includes Western Saharans fighting for independence from Morocco, the Kanak people in New Caledonia fighting for independence from French imperialism, as well as Palestinians, Puerto Rican independentistas, and many others. He pointed out that this movement has a communist component as part of its leadership, namely the Union of Young Communists in Cuba, who presented a revolutionary perspective in Algiers and offered the example of the road that workers and peasants in Cuba took to break from imperialist domination once and for all.

Young Socialists internationally are an integral part of the anti-imperialist movement, Willey said. The most important responsibility that the YS had at the festival was getting Pathfinder books and *New Internationals*—which offer the program, strategy, and continuity of the communist movement—into the hands of hundreds of delegates in all the languages they are published in.

In the discussion period, Natalie Corvington, from Ohio State University in Columbus, described the initiatives she has taken with the Cleveland branch of the SWP. They have started showing political films with discussions afterward to attract other students to the communist movement.

"We've had weekly literature tables since September and have sold \$400 in books," she said. "I bring books to classes to introduce to other students. The professors don't all like it and say they want me to 'transcend' revolution, but there's a good receptivity among students, so I'll keep bringing them in," said Corvington.

In answer to a question about YS members' role in producing Pathfinder books, Olympia Newton reported on the four Young Socialists volunteers in the printshop that produces the books and the *Militant*. "We are driven by an internalized discipline that comes from our understanding of the need for communist theory and continuity embodied in the books," Newton said.

YS maps out campaigns

On Sunday, the YS National Leadership Council held its meeting and opened the session on its campaigns to all YS-age participants in the conference, who were given voice and vote. YS-age participants were also invited to the report on leadership and the National Executive Committee election.

Jacob Perasso presented the report on the tasks and perspective of the organization. He placed the Mike Italie campaign at the center of the Young Socialists' work and pointed to the range of support that has already been won through the efforts of Italie supporters in Miami. Perasso urged all YS chapters to work with student groups and others to set up speaking events for Italie and his supporters. Another opportunity to defend workers' rights and the Cuban Revolution is the fight to free five Cuban patriots locked up in U.S. jails after frame-up trials. The five were in the United States trying to obtain information on attacks launched from U.S. soil by counterrevolutionary groups in order to defend the Cuban people from violent assaults. This is another case that YS members can build support for, organize campus meetings, and use the *Militant* to widen knowledge of the fight.

"Another goal of the entire communist movement is to sell \$500,000 in Pathfinder books by June 2001," Perasso said. "What Young Socialists do in joining campus tables, literature sales in working-class districts, and in placing books in campus libraries and bookstores will build on the advances we have already made in Pathfinder sales this year."

The National Leadership Council elected a National Executive Committee, responsible for implementing the decisions of the council between meetings. Rosa Green, Olympia Newton, and Jacob Perasso were elected.

Participants went on a buying spree of used and new Pathfinder books in the course of the weekend's events, purchasing more than 100 books and pamphlets to read and use for study classes.



Heather Page from the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, which campaigns for the reversal of the firing of Michael Italie, speaks during panel discussion at Young Socialists conference in Chicago. Conference participants decided to place this free speech campaign at center of work of Young Socialists.

talism. Barnes explains the possibilities and necessity of constructing a proletarian leadership to ensure the victory of these coming revolutionary battles that will decide the fate of humanity.

Panel of young socialists

A panel discussion Saturday evening was a highlight of the weekend. Heather Page—an activist in the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, which is campaigning for the reversal of Italie's firing—said everyone has a constitutional and human right to speak about their political ideas. "They tell us we cannot do anything, we should accept the way things are, but I challenge that and I encourage you to join the fight too," she said.

Joe Allegro, a union miner in Western Colorado, spoke about discussions he has had on the job about the imperialist Afghan war. Workers at the mine were he works waged a strike in 1999 and are gearing up for another contract fight. Several have read the *Militant*, which they bought from socialist workers who sell it at the mine portal. He pointed to the interest in the western Pennsylvania coalfields around the recent Socialist Workers campaign of coal miner Frank Forrester for mayor of Pittsburgh.

Rebecca Williamson pointed to the growth of a chapter in Seattle since the last YS leadership meeting in March. After going on the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange, two people joined the YS. "The trip to Cuba was an opportunity to show the example of what workers and peasants can accomplish through a socialist revolution. This powerful example affected many who went on the trip," Williamson said. Another student has since joined. The chapter and SWP branch have held a series of weekly classes based on articles in *New International* no. 7, which features "Opening Guns of World War III."

Williamson spoke about the federal raid on the Al-Barakaat Wiring Service, a gift

cruitment of four youth to the communist movement. Three YS members first met the movement at a literature table in a working-class district. "We are starting to see the fruits of weekly sales of Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial* in these districts and have recruited two young workers since June," Green said. One student from west Africa first met socialists at a campus table. He later came to a send-off rally for the youth exchange at Hostos Community College where he learned about the Algiers anti-imperialist youth festival. He decided to go, and through his experience working with the international YS there, joined the organization.

Hunger for socialist ideas

Green pointed to the sales of hundreds of *Militants* on New York campuses this fall as an example of the hunger for ideas among students. The day following the YS Weekend, Martin Koppel, recent Socialist Workers mayoral candidate, spoke to 20 students at Brooklyn College on the need to build a movement capable of leading workers and their allies to make a revolution in the United States.

Sarah Voyles from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, spoke about the recent classes and speaking events on her campus with YS and SWP leaders. She is part of a new campus group that also calls itself the Young Socialists. Jack Willey toured Indianapolis and Muncie a week earlier as part of the buildup to the Chicago weekend.

Voyles pointed to the large number of Pathfinder books purchased by Ball State students. "After checking out the library, I only found a handful of Pathfinder books, and they were all from the 1970s," explained Voyles. "We need these books in our campus library and bookstore so more students have access to this literature." She said some students plan to work with professors and others to get Pathfinder into the library and bookstore.

Miami defenders of free speech open nationwide fight

BY CHARLES HUNTER

MIAMI—The Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights has announced a nationwide speaking tour of Michael Italie, the Socialist Workers candidate in the recent mayoral elections who was fired from his job as a sewing machine operator at Goodwill Industries in Miami for speaking out against the U.S. war against Afghanistan, in defense of the Cuban Revolution, and for union rights at a televised candidates debate.

The committee is encouraging supporters of the fight, as they win backing for the case in their local area, to invite Italie to speak and widen support in the area.

The initiative by the free speech committee comes after Italie's case was featured at the Young Socialists conference in Chicago, November 17–18. Students and young workers who attended began making plans to invite Italie to the cities where they live and attend school.

Italie traveled to Chicago with defense committee activist Heather Page. At a public forum and a workshop they explained the importance of this struggle and reported the next steps to strengthen the campaign. Italie thanked the organizers of the conference for inviting him, and Page emphasized that he was available to speak across the country.

Italie told the gathering that "winning the endorsement of prominent individuals" is essential to putting maximum pressure on the company. "The free speech defense committee has produced an endorser card," he said. The card states, "I endorse Michael Italie's fight to have his unfair firing reversed and to be reinstated at Goodwill Industries of South Florida." Supporters should bring that card, said Italie "to defenders of civil liberties in the labor movement, Black and women's rights organizations, and others. In addition to gathering thousands of signatures on petitions, we plan on publicizing the number of leading activists who sign the card."

Page, who is 20 years old, said she first met the socialist candidate at a meeting of the Antiwar Coalition in Miami, then heard him speak at a candidates forum at Miami-Dade Community College the next day. "I'm going to stick with the fight against Mike's firing, and look forward to continuing to work with you all in winning it," she said.

University fires Mohammad Rahat

During the past week the case of Mohammad Rahat, a 22-year-old native of Iran who is fighting to win back his job as a medical lab technician at the University of Miami, was publicized in the *Miami Herald*. Italie told the *Militant* that the firing of Rahat by the University of Miami "for comments he made regarding the September 11

events, along with my firing on the same grounds, sends a chilling message that freedom of speech will not be tolerated on college campuses. I call on all defenders of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to speak out against this attack on the most fundamental right working people have fought for over the decades."

A front-page article in the November 16 *Herald* on Rahat's fight featured information on Italie's case. The article quoted Lida Rodriguez-Taseff, president of the Miami chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, stating the firings represent a "bad policy to silence people just because you don't like what they say."

Rahat sent a message in support of Italie to the Chicago gathering. "I would encourage that we adopt attitudes of mutual respect in the workplace and not intolerance, which resulted in the dismissal of Mr. Italie and myself," read the message. Italie stressed that by "linking up with people like Mohammad Rahat, who is determined to fight against these injustices, we will advance this fight in defense of freedom of speech."

Goodwill Industries of South Florida fired Italie from his job October 22, a few days after the socialist appeared on television in a debate with other mayoral candidates before some 400 people at Miami-Dade Community College. During the debate he stated his opposition to the U.S. war in Afghanistan, his defense of the Cuban Revolution, and his support for union organizing efforts.

'Get your belongings and go'

Four days after the debate, Italie's supervisor called him into the personnel office. A company manager told him, "I have been assigned to tell you that because of your views of the U.S. government, you are a disruptive force and cannot work here any longer. Get your belongings and go."

Goodwill chief executive officer Dennis Pastrana acknowledged that Italie had been fired because of his political statements, telling the *Miami Herald* October 30 that "we cannot have anyone who is attempting to



Militant/Lawrence Mikesh
Mike Italie speaks about his campaign at Young Socialists gathering in Chicago. The YS decided to place the Italie fight at the center of its work coming out of the weekend.

subvert the United States of America" work at the plant. The company does not claim Italie was fired for his conduct on the job, such as quality of work, interfering with production, or for talking with co-workers.

Supporters of Italie's fight to defend free speech organized the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, and launched a nationwide campaign to oppose the political firing and demand Italie's reinstatement at his job.

"Today all people and organizations that have truly democratic sentiments and thoughts are facing increasing harassment, intimidation and repression," reads a statement signed by Pedro Jimenez of El Comité de Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo (Committee for the Defense of People's Rights) in Georgia. "For this reason we join the emergency campaign to reinstate Michael Italie in his workplace, since his firing is unjustified in the eyes of the laws that support workers in this country. Every person has the right to think, act and be politically active according to their own convictions and also to demand respect for their labor rights. Therefore we ask: one, that he be immediately reinstated to his job; two, that he be paid for the days he did not work; three, that his political ideology be respected."

At the Miami International Bookfair held November 16–18, some 150 people signed a petition addressed to city officials in Miami supporting Italie's fight. People who stopped at the booth contributed \$50 to the defense effort and a couple of dozen people

signed up for more information and to help out. Several students and faculty from the University of Miami, where Mohammad Rahat was fired, signed up to assist. One student helped arrange for Italie to speak at a communications class on freedom of speech the following week.

Three students from Killian high school helped out at the book fair. One had learned about Italie's defense at a local demonstration against the war in Afghanistan and had posted materials on a web site about the case. Others first learned about it from that web site. One senior, taking advantage of his ability to speak both English and Spanish, helped win support by going from booth to booth, explaining the fight and asking people to sign the petition. The students plan to introduce more of their friends to the fight.

Statements demanding Italie's reinstatement, as well as financial contributions to help cover the cost of the fight, should be sent to the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, P.O. Box 510127, Miami, FL 33151-0127. Tel: (305) 724-5965. Email: DefendFreeSpeech@yahoo.com Checks should be made out to the Free Speech Defense Fund.

A supporter of the defense effort from Yardley, Pennsylvania, wrote the defense committee that "this is such a good cause that I'm contributing \$100, with the enclosed check. Even if your organization is not tax-deductible (as Mike Italie's former employer, ironically, is) I consider it too important not to give money to a cause like this."

Iranian researcher dismissed for views

BY LAWRENCE MIKESH AND CHARLES HUNTER

MIAMI—In the second reported political firing here in two months, the University of Miami (UM) fired Mohammad Rahat, a 22-year-old Iranian research technician.

In a front-page news article November 16, UM spokesperson Paula Musto told the *Miami Herald* that Rahat's remarks regarding the September 11 events in New York were "inappropriate and unbecoming for someone working in a research laboratory."

On the day of the attack on the World Trade Center Rahat had stated, "Some birthday gift from Osama bin Laden." In an interview with the *Miami Herald*, Rahat said that he made the remark "in a sarcastic way," not out of sympathy with bin Laden but to make the point that the attacks would "be associated with my birthday" on that day.

Asserting the right to fire Rahat for his political views, the university representative stated Rahat "was fired because he made those comments," and that his work record was "immaterial" to his firing.

In an interview with the *Militant* Rahat pointed out that "this was discrimination" both against his right to freedom of speech and because of his Middle Eastern background.

He continued, "If the same thing had occurred with someone of a different background, it would have resulted in a different outcome. I was having a conversation with another person and someone listening in on us reported my remarks to my supervisors."

"After the September 11 events," he said, "I was shocked like everyone else. With my knowledge of that part of the world and considering U.S. policy toward the region, I could see why such an attack might hap-

pen. This was nothing more than an objective analysis of the situation, yet my employers accused me of being happy for what had happened in New York and fired me for making "inflammatory comments."

Rahat explained that he was suspended from his job September 20 and dismissed five days later. "In this five-day period the Human Resources Department of the University of Miami would not return any of my phone calls, and gave me absolutely no opportunity to explain myself so as to clear up this misunderstanding. They gave me no credence, and simply dismissed me as 'disruptive.'"

According to Rahat, Human Resources personnel of the University of Miami have stated that he is no longer eligible for employment anywhere at the university.

The UM firing has sparked renewed discussion here over the rights of employers to fire workers for their comments and the ideas they advocate. The Readers' Forum of the November 19 *Herald* presented 11 responses from around the United States to UM's firing of Rahat. Seven opposed the firing and four were in favor. A retired army Sgt. Major wrote that the dismissal "stinks like a witch-hunt. Time to break out the Civics 101 book at UM. Liberty and justice for all."

Reflecting the political polarization that has deepened during the U.S. war on Afghanistan, another reader wrote, "Rahat's resident status should be ended. He should be deported to his country of origin."

According to the *Herald* article, Lida Rodriguez-Taseff, president of the Miami American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), repeated earlier statements claiming that private employers have a right to fire workers if they don't like their political views.

She added, "It's bad policy to silence people just because you don't like what they say."

More attacks on workers' rights

This blatant attack on freedom of speech comes in the midst of two other assaults on the rights of working people here in Miami.

"Rahat is the second person known to have been fired from a job in Miami after expressing critical views of U.S. foreign policy in the wake of September 11," reported the November 16 *Herald*. "In October, Michael Italie, a Socialist mayoral candidate in Miami, was fired from his minimum-wage job as a sewing machine worker at Goodwill Industries of South Florida. The termination took place after the local head of Goodwill learned that, during debates and forums, Italie was critical of U.S. military action in Afghanistan and supported the Cuban revolution."

In an interview with the *Militant*, Mike Italie expressed his support for Rahat's fight to win back his job. "Like my case, the firing of Mohammad Rahat is at bottom a violation of the First Amendment right to freedom of speech," he said. "Because of his Middle Eastern background Rahat, like others, is a special target of the pro-war hysteria promoted by the Bush administration."

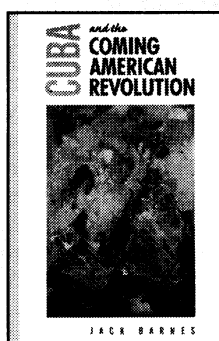
In a victory against this series of attacks on workers' rights, three Black Miami-Dade county firefighters have stood up to Fire Department attempts to drive them out of their jobs. On September 15 Terry Williams, James Moore, and William Clark were suspended for removing the American flag from their assigned fire truck. The three spoke out against the harassment they faced, and were allowed to return to work in early November after being cleared of any wrongdoing.

From Pathfinder

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. Preface by Mary-Alice Waters. In English, Spanish, and French.



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Sedition charges used against union fighters

The federal indictment brought against us the previous July [1941] contained two counts. The first of these was based on an 1861 statute that had been directed at the armed counterrevolution then being conducted by the Southern slaveholders. This particular measure had never been invoked against the slavocracy. It was now being used for the first time—eighty years later—to frame up socialist and trade union militants! If convicted under that law, we faced penalties of up to six years imprisonment, or a \$5,000 fine, or both.

Count two of the indictment invoked the Smith Act, an outright thought-control measure adopted in 1940. In this instance, too, we were the first ones brought to trial under that particular law. It carried penalties of up to ten years' imprisonment, a fine of \$10,000, or both.—Farrell Dobbs, from *Teamster Bureaucracy*.

Farrell Dobbs was a central leader of the struggles in the Midwest in the 1930s that built on the successful 1934 strike for union recognition by members of Teamsters Local 544 in Minneapolis. The struggle opened the door to massive battles by workers in the trucking industry to establish the union on an industrial basis across the Midwest. As the U.S. imperialists drove to enter the widening inter-imperialist conflict that became World War II, the administration of Franklin Roosevelt moved to bring the unions to heel and break the fighting capacity of the growing ranks of labor. He found willing allies in the top echelons of the unions.

Among the attacks on the labor movement were the federal indictments outlined above by Dobbs against 29 militants in the Socialist Workers Party and in union organizations. Among them were 14 officers, organizers, or job stewards of Local 544, or members of the editorial staff of the *Northwest Organizer*, the union's newspaper. Six were officers or outstanding activists in the Federal Workers Section, an organization allied with 544-CIO. Four were national leaders of the SWP.

The article below is from "Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation," published in *New International* no. 6. Copyright © 1987 by 408 Printing and Publishing Corp., reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.



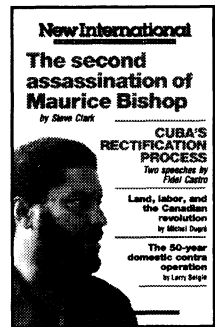
BY LARRY SEIGLE

In 1941 the Roosevelt administration, working in concert with the top International officials of the Teamsters, moved against the class-struggle leadership of the Minneapolis Teamsters. This leadership had refused to retreat from its position that labor must organize itself and set its priorities independent of the needs and prerogatives of the capitalist government and political parties. It continued to argue for the formation of a labor party based on the unions. It defended the colonial freedom struggle and championed the fight for the rights of oppressed nationalities in the United States. And it fought every move to sap the power of the labor movement by bringing unions under the control of government agencies.

PATHFINDER

In *New International* no. 6

Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation



LARRY SEIGLE

As the U.S. rulers prepared to smash working-class resistance and join the interimperialist slaughter of World War II, the national political police apparatus as it exists today was born. Documents

the consequences for the labor, Black, antiwar, and other social movements and how the working-class vanguard has fought over the past fifty years to defend democratic rights against government and employer attacks. **15.00**

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12



Public meeting during World War II defends 18 working-class fighters convicted of conspiracy charges under Smith Act, a law "that made the expression of ideas a crime."

The legal centerpiece of the Roosevelt administration's antilabor offensive was the use for the first time of the Smith Act, which had been adopted in 1940. For the first time in the United States since the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, this gag law made the expression of ideas a crime.

In June 1941, FBI agents and U.S. marshals raided the branch offices of the Socialist Workers Party in St. Paul and Minneapolis. They hauled away cartons of communist literature from the bookstores and libraries on the premises.

In Washington, D.C., Attorney General Biddle himself announced the plans for prosecution. "The principal Socialist Workers Party leaders against whom prosecution is being brought are also leaders of Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis," he told the press. "The prosecution is brought under the criminal code of the United States against persons who have been engaged in criminal seditious activities, and who are leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and have gained control of a legitimate labor union to use it for illegitimate purposes." Biddle's harangues against editors of Black papers provide a pretty good idea of the broad scope the attorney general gave to the term "seditious activities." From the standpoint of the government, any union activity dissenting from the drive toward entry into the war was illegitimate.

The government had three objectives in the crackdown on the Teamster local and the SWP.

First, it aimed to purge the labor movement of those who would not go along with imperialist war goals and militarization of the country and to intimidate into silence others, inside and outside the unions.

Second, the government wanted to erase the stronghold of union power and democracy represented by the Minneapolis Teamsters. The leadership of that union was inspiring emulation of class-struggle methods throughout the Midwest and educating workers in the need for socially conscious labor action and political independence from the capitalist parties. Although these leaders represented a minority point of view in the labor movement, that could change. The fight they were waging could become a rallying point to draw together significant forces in the unions, among the unemployed and unorganized, among Blacks, and among working farmers.

Third, the government sought to push the SWP in the direction of going underground. It wanted to force the party to give up some of its public activities and to concede that it must function at least in part illegally. The rulers' goal was to restrict the space for working-class politics.

Nationwide defense effort

The relationship of class forces imposed by the labor movement's retreat allowed the capitalist government a good measure of success in its first and second objectives. But it totally failed in driving the SWP underground. One of

the party's first responses to the indictments was to nominate James P. Cannon, its national secretary and one of those facing trial, for mayor of New York City. The SWP launched a vigorous petition campaign to win Cannon a spot on the ballot. The party also initiated a nationwide defense effort that continued until the last of the defendants was released from prison.

Throughout this fight, the SWP forcefully asserted its constitutional right to carry out political activity. It published and distributed Marxist literature. It participated in and helped to advance the activities of the unions, the NAACP, and other organizations. SWP members explained communist ideas to fellow GIs, fought together with them against race discrimination in the armed forces and other abuses of citizen-soldiers, and took advantage of every opportunity to present the views of the party.

A central issue in the Minneapolis trial was the SWP's opposition to any policy of subordinating the interests of unionists, Blacks, GIs, farmers, or other working people to the profits and power of the exploiters, who called for "national unity" in wartime to silence opposition to their policies. In time of war, the SWP explained, the struggle for the independence of the trade unions from the capitalist state and the fight for trade union democracy become even more critical.

SWP leaders turned the courtroom into a platform from which to explain the party's views on the war. They explained that the Second World War was really three wars in one.

First, it was a war to defend the Soviet Union, the first—and at that time the only—workers state, against imperialist efforts spearheaded by Germany's rulers to overturn it and restore capitalist rule. In this conflict the workers' movement throughout the world stood with the Soviet workers state.

Second, it was a war for national liberation, especially in Asia. The Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, and other colonial peoples were waging massive struggles against imperialist occupation and domination, taking advantage of the conflict between the world imperialist powers to push for their own freedom. In this war all of progressive humanity stood with the colonial peoples against their imperialist overlords.

Third, it was a war among imperialist rivals for domination of the world. In this conflict, the capitalist rulers of the United States and those of its allies sought to enlist the political support of working people by presenting their goals as the defeat of fascism and defense of democracy. But, as SWP leader James P. Cannon explained from the witness stand, U.S. working people could combat fascism only by strengthening their own organizations not by subordinating their struggle to support for the imperialist government, in wartime or not. Cannon was asked:

What is the party's position on the claim that the war against Hitler is a war of democracy against fascism? Answer: We say that it is a subterfuge, that the conflict

between American imperialism and German imperialism is for the domination of the world. It is absolutely true that Hitler wants to dominate the world, but we think it is equally true that the ruling group of American capitalists has the same idea, and we are not in favor of either of them. We do not think that the Sixty Families who own America want to wage this war for some sacred principle of democracy. We think they are the greatest enemies of democracy here at home. We think they would only use the opportunity of a war to eliminate all civil liberties at home, to get the best imitation of fascism they can possibly get.¹

Testimony from FBI stool pigeons

The government's case at the trial consisted largely of testimony from FBI stool pigeons and other opponents of the elected leadership of Teamster Local 544, together with evidence such as copies of the *Communist Manifesto* and other books and pamphlets by Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky that had been seized from bookstore shelves.

A jury returned convictions against eighteen of the twenty-eight defendants on one count of the indictment, finding them guilty of a conspiracy to "advise and teach the duty, necessity, desirability and propriety of overthrowing and destroying the Government of the United States by force and violence...." Sentencing took place on December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese forces attacked the main naval base in the U.S. colony of Hawaii, and the day Congress voted a formal declaration of war. Twelve of the defendants received sentences of sixteen months in federal prison, and six were sentenced to one year.

Opponents of this political persecution joined together to organize the Civil Rights Defense Committee (CRDC). The guilty verdict brought forth a round of protests from union locals and central labor bodies speaking for more than a million union members. Union bodies contributed money to the CRDC to pay for legal appeals and help spread the word about the case. Support came from NAACP chapters around the country. W.E.B. DuBois, the historian and Black rights leader, declared his solidarity with the Smith Act defendants. Adam Clayton Powell, then a member of the New York City Council and a prominent figure in the Black community, declared: "Whenever the civil liberties of any American or any American group are threatened, then the civil liberties of all are in danger, and this is the issue in Minneapolis." The American Civil Liberties Union announced its support for the appeal, warning that the Smith Act is a "dangerous weapon against civil rights of labor and radicals of all varieties."

Support for the defense effort was not universal in the working-class movement, however. Most AFL and CIO officials remained silent; some even publicly supported the prosecution.

A treacherous stand was taken by the Stalinized Communist Party, which gave political support to the Roosevelt administration and its appeals for "national unity." In the union movement, the CP was among the most fervent backers of the no-strike pledge agreed to by most of the top labor officialdom for the duration of the war. When the United Mine Workers went on strike in 1943, the CP's *Daily Worker* openly opposed it and called for the "[John L.] Lewis line" of defying the no-strike pledge to be "utterly defeated." In the Black movement, the CP opposed the Double V campaign on the grounds that too much emphasis on the fight against race discrimination in the army and in the war plants would disrupt "national unity." The CP also supported the internment of Japanese-Americans, suspended from the party its Japanese-American members, and urged these former members not to resist their own internment.²

Consistent with these positions, the Communist Party actively supported the prosecution of the Minneapolis defendants. The *Daily Worker* branded those who supported the Civil Rights Defense Committee as "tools" being used by "Hitler agents."

¹ The complete transcript of Cannon's courtroom testimony is contained in James P. Cannon, *Socialism on Trial* (New York: Pathfinder Press, 1973).

² Patti Iiyama, "American Concentration Camps," *International Socialist Review* (April 1973), p. 28.

1920 Palmer raids targeted postwar labor upsurge

"In 1917 and 1918," writes Farrell Dobbs in *Revolutionary Continuity*, "mounting discontent among workers, combined with the capitalist government's efforts to maintain a 'responsible' and stable wartime labor force, led to the recruitment of three-quarters of a million new members to the American Federation of Labor."

During the first inter-imperialist world war, Dobbs says, the capitalists "raked in ever-larger profits, while workers' wages lagged farther and farther behind rapidly climbing prices. The 'patriotic' sacrifices in support of the war effort that the government demanded from 'everyone' were imposed in a one-sided way. As the workers' buying power shrank, and their economic hardships became more severe, the urge to organize for a fight to improve their situation grew stronger."

Dobbs recounts struggles, such as those among meat packers, that pointed in the direction of organizing industrial unions, breaking from the narrow craft structures that crippled the power of the labor movement and left the masses of workers without union organization. By the time the war ended in November 1918, he writes, "the workers' grievances ran so deep that they began to revolt on a massive scale." Demands included pay hikes to catch up with rising living costs, an eight-hour day to replace the 10-to-12-hour days common in industry, and improved job conditions. When the employers rejected these demands, a strike wave spread across the country on a scale never seen before in the United States.

Some 365,000 steelworkers walked off the job in September 1919. In February 1919 textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and copper miners in Butte, Montana, went on strike, and a general strike gripped Seattle. In November 1919 a half million bituminous coal miners, many of whom toiled in "captive mines" owned by the steel trusts, went out, demanding increased pay, a six-hour day to offset unemployment, and measures to address their dangerous working conditions. This action reinforced the steelworkers' strike, entering its second year.

Dobbs explains that the impact of the 1917 Russian Revolution on workers in the United States "was among the factors giving rise to the militancy displayed from Lawrence to Seattle. The proletarian victory sweeping across the former Russian Empire enabled U.S. workers to perceive more clearly their inherent power as a class, and they wanted to use that power in their expanding fight to wrest concessions from the bosses."

The labor fakery who sat on top of the craft unions feared the militancy of the workers, their rising social struggles, and the fundamental transformation of the unions posed by the fight by millions of workers for industrial organization. In face of government threats, and direct intervention by U.S. president Woodrow Wilson, coal miners' president John L. Lewis ordered the miners back on the job shortly after the strike began. An employer-government offensive broke the steel strike, which was officially called off in January 1920. Building on their victory over the steelwork-

ers, the rulers deepened their assault, launching the infamous "Palmer raids" that targeted the labor movement.

The excerpt reprinted below is from the chapter, "New Capitalist Repressions," in *Revolutionary Continuity: Birth of the Communist Movement* by Farrell Dobbs. Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.



BY FARRELL DOBBS

In the United States the bosses' antilabor drive had two basic aims: not only to take back concessions wrested from them during the 1919 strike wave, but also to weaken, and whenever possible destroy, the trade unions in order to alter the relationship of forces between capital and labor.

An expanding network of informers was used to spy on union activities and finger individual militants for victimization as "agitators." Repressive actions became more and more widespread as the corporations heated up their open-shop drive. Many of the workers' organizations were thrust back toward the semilegal conditions of existence under which the labor movement had arisen in the nineteenth century.

As an integral part of the assault on the working class, steps were taken to intensify discrimination against Afro-Americans and sharpen divisions within the working class along race lines.

In 1910 three-fourths of U.S. Blacks were rural, mainly farm laborers, tenant farmers, or sharecroppers; and 90 percent lived in the South. During the war, however, labor shortages resulting from the combined effects of expanded industrial production and the military draft had enabled Blacks to find industrial employment on an unprecedented scale. In general, though, they were confined to the dirtiest, hardest, most dangerous, lowest-paying jobs.

Conditions of life for Afro-Americans within the urban communities—like the conditions of rural poverty they were escaping from—were also horrible. They were segregated in ghettos, charged exorbitant rent for slum housing, subjected to price gouging by merchants, and preyed upon by loan sharks. When the war ended and industrial production declined, Blacks were usually the first to be laid off. With mounting unemployment thus putting an even greater blight upon their lives, they began to press more strongly than ever for economic, political, and social equality.

Using a double twist, the capitalists responded by making the victim the criminal. As the postwar labor upsurge developed, Blacks were sometimes hired—as in the case of steel—to break strikes by trade unionists who were in their great majority white.

This was facilitated by the bosses' propaganda branding union members as "criminals" because of their efforts to halt production. In those circumstances race prejudice against Blacks, which was already widely extant among workers who were white, became further intensified. This by-product of the strikebreaking attacks on the trade unions could in turn be used by the boss



Workers gather outside Skinner and Eddy shipyard during 1919 strike in Seattle. In response to strike wave that swept across the United States after World War I, the U.S. rulers launched a broad antilabor assault aimed at weakening and destroying unions.

class to keep Black "criminal" upstarts in a subordinate place, deepening the divisions in the working class that were necessary for capitalist rule.

With tacit capitalist encouragement, violent attacks on Blacks escalated during 1919 in both the industrial North and agrarian South. Lynchings occurred with increasing frequency. Race riots, initiated by white bigots, broke out in several northern cities as well as in the South. Blacks fought back, defending themselves as best they could in a situation where the forces of "law and order" collaborated with the white mobs. Blacks refused, moreover, to back off from their demands for equal rights. They continued to press public discussion of ways and means to advance their cause.

Capitalist rulers smear Black movement

In an effort to squelch such discussions, the capitalist government resorted to a smear campaign against the Black movement. National publications encouraging vigorous efforts to win Afro-Americans' demands were singled out for condemnation, with the main fire centered on *The Messenger* and *The Crisis*. What they said was twisted and distorted in order to accuse them of fomenting "sedition." But the needs of this oppressed nationality were so compelling that its best fighters would not be silenced.

Branding the Black struggle "seditious" was at the same time part of the drive against all workers, regardless of color. A propaganda barrage identifying trade union militancy with communism was widely promulgated by the capitalist media and used to drum up broad support for a general assault on workers' organizations. Union busting and decimation of the communist movement were painted up as "patriotic" endeavors.

Gompers quickly put the AFL on record in support of the capitalist witch-hunt, making his own contribution to perpetuating the hysteria against radicals generated during the war. He remained totally silent in the face of the intensified attacks against Blacks. These stances were intended both to strengthen Gompers' bureaucratic hold over the organization and to curry favor with the bosses by demonstrating that the craft unions were part of capitalism's line of defense against "Bolshevism," "criminality," and all things "foreign."

The AFL bureaucracy's treacherous action coincided with the opening of another extralegal assault upon the working class, one spearheaded by the American Legion. Formed in 1919 on ruling-class initiative, the legion's chief objective was to incite war veterans against the labor movement.

It was structured to perpetuate in a civilian organization of demobilized troops the same domination over the rank and file by the officer caste that had prevailed in military service. Behind dire warnings of the specter of a "red menace," the legion organized ex-soldiers in vigilante actions to terrorize critics of the capitalist status quo. Witch-hunting of individuals, attacks on union picket lines, and disruption of meetings held by workers' political parties all became common.

State antiseditious laws

Encouragement for such outrages was provided by all branches of government. Many state legislatures put new, stiffer

criminal syndicalism and antiseditious laws on the books. "Antisubversive" bills were introduced in the U.S. Congress. Worker militants were brought to trial in one or another type of frame-up, and the courts refused to accord them their constitutional rights.

The shock brigade of the government's vicious witch-hunting was the U.S. Department of Justice, headed by Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Acting for the Wilson administration, Palmer launched an anti-red crusade with special emphasis on "alien anarchy."

For many years the ruling class had been planting spies and provocateurs in the Socialist Party to inform on its members and disrupt it. When the SP split occurred in 1919, the Justice Department's dirty work was extended into the two new Communist parties. These infiltrators were now used as bird dogs in a dragnet operation intended to tear apart the workers' vanguard organizations. The operation was carried out under the immediate supervision of J. Edgar Hoover, who was later to become director of the antilabor, anti-Black Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In November 1919, during the steel strike, the political police had swooped down and arrested several hundred members of the two Communist parties, mainly in New York. This particular raid was intended, among other things, to buttress a phony charge that the steel strike was part of a "Bolshevik plot." The charges leveled against the Communists implied that they were masterminding the trade union struggles taking place, when in reality their sectarianism had isolated them from the labor upsurge.

Then, at the beginning of 1920, Palmer opened an all-out anticommunist offensive, extending from coast to coast. Federal agents invaded Communist meetings, party headquarters, and the workplaces and homes of individuals. They seized literature, party records, and private correspondence. Firings were encouraged, families were terrorized, and wholesale arrests were made. By the end of January thousands of political militants were in jail on framed-up charges.

Foreign-born workers bore the brunt of the attack. As the January raids began, the political cops were given packets of deportation warrants. These so-called John Doe warrants, issued without naming actual persons, were then used against noncitizens picked up by chance in the federal dragnet. Almost 3,000 alleged communists were arrested in that way. They languished in jails throughout the country, except for those able to get out on bond; and several hundred of them were hustled to Ellis Island, where they were incarcerated pending final orders for their expulsion. In the end, some 750 immigrants were deported as a result of the 1919 and 1920 raids.

The vast scope of the government drive against the foreign born suspected of harboring communist ideas, together with the brutal manner in which it was carried out, sowed fear among immigrant workers generally. This wider consequence of the Palmer raids was, of course, exactly what the capitalist rulers sought to achieve. Basically, their antilabor-anticommunist campaign was intended to curb militancy throughout the entire labor force and keep the workers divided and docile to the boss class.

for further reading

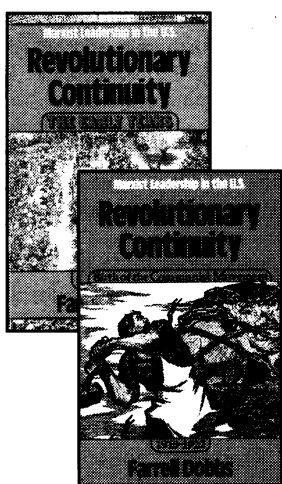
Revolutionary Continuity

Marxist Leadership in the United States

Farrell Dobbs

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Black lung group backs widows' march

Continued from front page

oring the first president of the union.

Chapman said the autopsy on her husband, who died last January, proved he had black lung "after the coal company fought for 19 years to say he didn't." He had six of the seven respiratory ailments that can come from breathing coal dust, she said.

But his death certificate listed respiratory problems third on the list of causes of death, so "I've got a fight on my hands" to get widows' benefits, Chapman said.

About 85 people, mostly retired miners, their spouses, and miners' widows from BLA chapters in coalfields throughout the eastern United States, participated in the meeting. Several workers from black lung clinics also attended.

It took a real fight by coal miners and their spouses, including a miners' strike in 1969, to get black lung recognized as an occupational disease to be covered by the mine bosses and federal government. This included a 23-day strike in West Virginia that forced the Charleston legislature to enact a compensation law.

After this action, a federal Coal Act, which helps guarantee the funds needed to cover miners' lifetime health care, was passed. In the early 1970s about 70 percent

of miners with black lung received compensation. The law was amended in 1981, and in the last 10 years less than 10 percent of those who have applied have won benefits.

There is no cure, but with proper control methods it can be prevented. It is estimated that 1,500 miners die every year from the disease.

Currently, 80,000 miners or widows receive black lung benefits. And in addition to opposing any move to improve black lung benefits, the coal companies continue to cheat on safety in the mines, including on dust control. Since 1991 more than 160 companies or individuals have been criminally prosecuted for fraudulent coal dust samples.

Meetings attended by hundreds of people and a march in Washington to defend benefits miners receive under the Coal Act have been organized by the United Mine Workers of America over the past two years.

The BLA conference here took up the legal roadblocks thrown in front of those who are seeking compensation for black lung disease. Two women from the Kanawha Valley chapter spoke about the need to change the federal law so that spouses of miners who were receiving black lung benefits can automatically receive

Miners protest safety violations

Continued from front page

pact ignited a pocket of explosive methane gas.

Of the 28 workers and four bosses in the mine at the time, three miners were killed immediately by the blast and a fourth died September 24 after being removed from the mine and rushed to the hospital. The other miners killed were caught in a second explosion while trying to rescue their co-workers.

The families of Gaston Earl Adams, Jr.; Nelson Banks; Charles "Eddie" Smith; Dennis Mobley; and Clarence "Bit" Boyd have all filed wrongful death suits against Jim Walter and in some cases Black Warrior Methane Corp. for failing to create a safe working environment.

High methane levels

Miners explained to the *Militant* that the company was warned several times about high methane levels and ventilation problems in the mine.

In the weeks leading up to the fatal blasts at Blue Creek No. 5 mine the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) issued at least 10 safety citations labeled "serious," including five related to roof control. The mine owners received 52 other citations for unsafe conditions during the same period, including at least 18 for accumulation of combustible material.

Between 1995 and 2001 MSHA issued 2,987 safety violations and action orders against the company, and fines totally \$594,276.

Despite this seemingly high number of citations, some miners say that at times

major safety violations would go unchallenged by MSHA officials who give special "leniency" to the company.

Some workers say MSHA inspectors get too "cozy" with the bosses and often do not follow up to check on company compliance with the citations.

One *Birmingham News* article titled "Mine violation records lacking" appears to give truth to those statements. "A federal safety inspector repeatedly cited Blue Creek No. 5 mine in the month before the two deadly explosions," the article reads, "but there is no record the coal mine was re-inspected to ensure its recommendations were implemented." MSHA officials are supposed to check on violations they write up and mark them if they have been corrected.

"There is no indication that these violations were not taken care of," MSHA

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Defend Workers' Rights. Protest the Firing of Michael Italic. Fri., Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. 5237 N. 5th Street. Donation: \$5. Tel: (216) 324-7020.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Defend Revolutionary Cuba against the U.S. Anti-Terrorist Campaign. Speakers: Leslie Salgado, Howard County Friends of Latin America; Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. 3437 14th Street, NW. Tel: (202) 387-1590.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Anti-Imperialist Struggles in Central Asia: Revolutionary Traditions and Political

Opportunities for the Working Class Today. A Pathfinder Event. Speaker: Linda Harris, Communist League, member, Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union. Sun., Dec. 2, 4:00 p.m.

Anniversary of 1951 New Zealand Waterfront Lockout: Workers' Resistance to the Employers' Offensive in Wartime. Speaker: Rob Gardner, Communist League. Sun., Dec. 9, 4:00 p.m. Both events at Level 1, 281-287 Beamish St, Campsie. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9718-9690.

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

The Role of the United Nations in Suppressing Struggles of Working People. Fri., Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (03) 365-6055.

widow's benefits.

"If a man was drawing black lung benefits before 1982, his widow draws automatically," explained BLA president Lewis Fitch. But for claims filed since 1982 the widow must prove that black lung caused or hastened the death of her spouse.

"They didn't say my husband didn't have black lung, just that it didn't kill him," said Peggy Coleman. "I understand that there's things going on now that the country needs, but they're not meeting my needs," she said, pointing to the lack of any bills in Congress

to address the benefits for miners' widows.

One BLA member said that when his father died, the doctor agreed that black lung contributed to his death, but that information was not included in the death certificate. If he hadn't immediately caught the error and fought to have it corrected, the government would have cut off benefits to his mother.

Several clinic workers said medical tests for the disease are often conducted by company-minded doctors who administer the blood-gas tests for black lung when the miner is rested, which can result in a healthy reading for even a very sick worker.

A memorial meeting held over the weekend for Mike South, a former president of the BLA who died of black lung this year at age 54, was attended by 100 people. South fought to change the federal regulations to enable more miners and their families to receive black lung compensation. Many remembered that, despite having to carry an oxygen tank wherever he went because of the disease, South was an inspiration to others working to form BLA chapters and fighting for compensation.

United Mine Workers of America president Cecil Roberts spoke at the memorial meeting. Roberts talked about the recent explosion at the Jim Walter No. 5 mine in Brookwood, Alabama, pointing out that at the memorial service at the Brookwood High School stadium he had asked everyone there to remember not only the 13 miners who had just been killed, but also the 100,000 miners who have died in the mines in the United States over the years, as well as the 100,000 who have died of black lung.

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health benefits and compensation
to black lung victims, and more
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Available from bookstores,
including those listed on page 12

'America the Beautiful'—Topps made itself with baseball trading cards, but it also has a series of U.S. war sets, including the



Harry Ring

current one. The sales blurb: "In a format that children can understand. Not included are the disturbing images shown repeatedly on national newscasts..." A dissenting, capsule review from the young

reader who sent us their sales pitch: "Tough yet cuddly imperialist murders, their nifty airplanes, etc."

Yo boss, how about 50 till Friday?—"With pay raises and bonuses difficult to justify and stock options mostly worthless, corporate boards are finding new ways to reward executives. Increasingly, companies are forgiving payments on balances on loans made to help executives buy homes, buy company stocks or even pay taxes."—*USA Today*.

Taking does get addictive—"The American Red Cross knowingly collected hundreds of thousands of blood donations after Sep-

tember 11 that could not be used. "After selling some of the surplus to hospitals, the Red Cross has begun to destroy thousands of pints that have outlasted their shelf life."—News item.

Better yet, tighten your dray belt—The *Bulletin* of the American Association of Retired People did a lengthy article on the rocky state of the economy with the admonition to "tighten your belt." Flip to the centerspread for an exclusive offer to AARP members—\$500 cash back on any Buick sedan.

Hey teach, how many ways to make a 7?—The public school system in Clark County, Nevada,

has a tightly enforced zero-tolerance system. The county is comprised mainly of Las Vegas ("Lost Wages" to some). Last year 7,500 students were suspended or expelled for violating zero tolerance.

Is that a promise?—In Fresno, California, the police department is missing \$2.4 million. The chief assures it's merely an accounting error. He said this would not curb street patrols but could cut back special operations, such as the violent crimes squad.

Welcome, brothers and sisters—The "Labour" government in the United Kingdom will require the thousand seeking political asy-

lum to carry government ID cards. Distribution of needed food and clothing vouchers will be halted and a refugee camp will be opened.

Did they overlook anyone?—"The Home Office has secretly created a prototype national identity card in preparation for the introduction of ID cards for all Britons."—*The Times*, London

No problem—This week's lead item was sent—indirectly—by a new reader who didn't have our address. For him and other prospective contributors, send clippings to: Great Society c/o Pathfinder Books, 4229 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90011.

Polisario leader condemns Morocco's oil deals

Continued from front page
eign company and Morocco for petroleum research in Western Sahara.

Within a matter of weeks the French company TotalFinaElf signed a contract in Rabat for oil exploration with ONAREP. This contract concerns the offshore zone near Dakhla, with an area about 114,500 square kilometers (71,000 square miles) and lasts one year.

'Support for Moroccan colonialism'

Sahrawi foreign minister Mohamed Salem Ould Salek denounced the contracts, saying they represent the "sabotage" of United Nations-sponsored negotiations on the Western Sahara. He described them as "sheer aggression against the Sahrawi people, clear support for Moroccan colonialism, and flagrant violation of international law."

At the forum, Fadel pointed to the resolve of the Sahrawi people to fight for their independence despite these moves. "Even after 25 years of living in the desert where there is nothing, we will continue to fight. A 1,200 mile wall and a million land mines cannot keep Western Sahara divided," he said. In addition to the wall, land mines, and military occupation of large portions of Western Sahara, the Moroccan regime has moved thousands of people into the region and claims they have the right to vote in a referendum on the future status of the country.

In 1991 the Moroccan government and the Polisario Front agreed to a cease-fire and signed a UN-brokered agreement in which the Moroccan government pledged to hold a referendum by Sahrawis to decide on independence or integration with Morocco.

The Moroccan government and UN have stalled the implementation of the referendum agreement and as of today no date is set for the vote. United Nations officials recently announced that due to budget constraints it is cutting the number of people assigned to work on registering voters and preparing the referendum from 120 to 36. Such a move will make impossible the implementation of the 1991 UN Peace Plan any time soon.

Fadel was joined on the platform by

Annalucia Vermunt, who recently visited Western Sahara representing the Young Socialists in New Zealand.

Fighting capacity of Saharawis

"In visiting the Smara refugee camp and meeting with representatives of many of the civic organizations we were not meeting with victims of a 25-year-long war," said Vermunt, "but with a people preparing for a free independent Western Sahara. The fighting capacity of the Sahrawi people came through in many ways."

Vermunt, along with Young Socialists from several other countries, visited the camps following the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students. The world anti-imperialist youth festival was held in Algiers, Algeria, last August.

A large delegation of Sahrawi youth participated in the festival and widened knowledge of their struggle among many of the 6,500 young people present from around the world. "One which particularly impressed me was how many Sahrawi study for professional qualifications around the world," she said. "When their studies are complete most choose to return to advancing their people when they have opportunities for professional careers in Europe or elsewhere."

In discussion Fadel responded to a question about international support for the struggle of the Sahrawi people by explaining that the aid of the Cuban revolutionary government had been decisive along with the support of the Algerian people. "Many Sahrawi students have been given the opportunity to study in Cuba. We now have a much higher standard of education than, for example, in Morocco."

Fadel commented on the impact of the deepening world economic crisis on countries in Africa, including Morocco. The Moroccan regime, he said, "is becoming increasingly fragile, and this instability is heightened because of the economic, social, and political problems and the widening gap between rich and poor. The occupation of Western Sahara only adds to the burden."



Militant/Jacob Perasso

International delegation of youth visited the military museum in the refugee camps of Western Sahara in August. The museum displayed weaponry supplied by the United States, France, and other countries to the Moroccan regime, and then used against the Polisario Front.

Vermunt said the Young Socialists extend solidarity to the struggle in Western Sahara "not simply because it is good, but because it is necessary. As we seek to take power out of the hands of the imperialist warmakers who are today joining the war

against the people of Afghanistan, we are strengthened by anti-imperialist struggles being waged around the world. The 15th World Festival of Youth and Students was a recent opportunity to make links with these kind of struggles."

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

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THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

December 3, 1976

BOSTON—Eyewitnesses to South Africa repression, an Irish revolutionary, a Native American, civil rights leaders, feminists, an advocate of prison reform, a frame-up victim, were among those addressing a rally against racism here November 19.

The evening rally was the opening shot in a weekend National Student Conference Against Racism, organized by the National Student Coalition Against Racism.

Its theme was "No to Racism from Boston to South Africa." Students and others, more than 700, attended the rally at Boston University. Some came to see an Irish revolutionary up close. Others came to hear about South African repression firsthand. All came to learn of ways to fight racism on their campuses and in their communities.

Joe Madison, executive secretary of the Detroit NAACP, is a prominent supporter of the student coalition. He has spoken at other NSCAR gatherings and is on the group's national speakers bureau.

To whistles and rhythmic applause that punctuated the remarks of several speakers, Madison declared: "You cannot stand in the United States and fight for freedom here unless you fight for freedom in South Africa."

Twenty-nine-year-old Irish revolutionary Bernadette Devlin McAliskey brought the crowd to a standing ovation when she was introduced. McAliskey, a former British Parliament member, is touring the country to generate support for Marie and Noel Murray, who face the death penalty in Ireland for struggling for Irish freedom from British domination.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

December 3, 1951

Interpreting an order from the top command in accordance with their own desires, U.S. troops in Korea brought about a cease-fire virtually along the entire battlefield for as long as 48-hours in some sectors.

The enthusiasm with which the GI's put into effect the cease-fire and the prospect for possible fraternization between the opposing armies so alarmed the top command and leading U.S. diplomatic and political circles that new orders were issued to the troops emphasizing that there was no cease-fire and that the war should go on with U.S. troops "shooting to kill."

Soon after the firing stopped, front-line GI's in some sectors watched Chinese troops playing volley ball in no-man's land. The Chinese and North Korean attitude towards the cessation of hostilities was further shown by their lighting bonfires instead of maintaining the usual blackout at night.

Such developments in the first hours following the "misunderstanding" by the troops that an informal cease-fire existed, undoubtedly led the top brass to fear that discontent among the GI's would increase and that fraternization might soon develop.

Despite the new orders to resume fighting it is apparent that, given the overwhelming feeling of the troops for an end to hostilities, United States commanders would have to think twice before ordering the reluctant GI's into major offensive operations. The GI's are thinking things out for themselves and object to being used as just so much cannon fodder by the Big Brass.

Cubans confront hurricane disaster

Continued from Page 16

Foreign Ministry said that Cuba had, "without losing a second," made "rapid and detailed assessments of all damage."

The Cuban government proposed Washington "allow Cuban public companies to purchase in an expeditious manner specific quantities of food, medicine, and raw materials to be used in reestablishing the reserves we are now using, so that we will be prepared for any new natural disaster that may emerge." The message suggested Washington allow transportation of the materials to the island in Cuban vessels.

"Payment for such products," the ministry statement explained, "given existing barriers limiting our normal trade relations, would be in cash, specifically U.S. dollars or whatever convertible currency is requested."

The Cuban Foreign Ministry statement quoted a news wire story reporting that White House spokesman Ari Fleisher said Washington "was prepared to offer aid through international organizations and other suitable intermediaries, in a way that they can be certain that the Cuban people,

and not the Castro regime, will benefit."

In response to Fleisher's comments, the Foreign Ministry statement said nothing of the sort was implied in the note from Washington, and "as for the whole muddle kicked up by the White House spokesman, it's up to them to explain."

On November 15 Cuban foreign minister Felipe Perez Roque said Cuba presented a list of goods for approval by U.S. officials and has contacted 15 agricultural and pharmaceutical companies in the United States. The deal is estimated to be worth between \$3 million and \$10 million. At Washington's insistence, the goods will be transported on U.S. or third-country ships.

The U.S. rulers have maintained an economic embargo on Cuba since 1962. Reflecting their continuing hostility to Cuba's socialist revolution, they have extended the reach of the embargo with two major pieces of legislation, the 1992 Torricelli and 1996 Helms-Burton acts.

Soon after the storm passed, the Venezuelan government began flying in 22 tons of aid supplies, including milk powder, canned goods, pasta, and coffee.

A revolutionary perspective

The perspectives of a revolutionary struggle for power by workers and farmers in the United States discussed at the Young Socialists Weekend in Chicago are getting a wider hearing today among students and workers repelled by the economic depression, military repression, and war that imperialism has to offer humanity.

The lawful workings of capitalism have produced the tens of millions of workers in the United States—and billions worldwide—who labor in the mines, factories, transportation systems, and fields owned by the superwealthy families that control society. They have tremendous potential economic and social power, and their concentration in large cities and industrial complexes lends their struggles a tendency toward mutual reinforcement, solidarity, and emulation.

The wealthy owners of finance and industrial capital in the United States, backed by their massive military might and the almighty dollar, sit on top of the pecking order of imperialist powers. They not only exploit and oppress working people at home, but keep the Third World in a permanent state of underdevelopment and social crisis. Conflicts between the ruling classes in Germany, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, Italy, and the United States, come more and more to the fore today, as each fights to slow down their relative decline, one against the other. But there is no one in line to replace the domination of U.S. imperialism's economic, military, and political power.

For the U.S. ruling class, the drive to reverse the fortunes of their declining system starts at home; their foreign policy is simply an extension of that assault to workers and farmers the world over. As they press to squeeze more profit out of workers and farmers in the United States, they must also restrict rights that give room for working

people to organize, fight, and resist.

The fact that the logic of the last empire on the face of the earth is moving toward imposing military garrisons in country after country, a military government and fascism at home, and war against its imperialist rivals can be more easily discerned today by working people. This is the only road toward the "stability" and "peace" Washington needs as the basis for opening a new period of capitalist expansion. It gives a truthfulness to the trend in Washington to call the U.S. military regional commanders "proconsuls"—the name given to military commanders in Rome, which imposed its garrisons in a fruitless attempt to halt the decay of its empire.

Working people will be increasingly propelled onto a road of revolutionary struggle as the brutalities and assaults that more and more mark the declining and weakening system of the domination of finance capital become intolerable. As with the first socialist revolution in Russia, war, economic decline, and repression at home will, over time, combine to leave working people no choice but to use their enormous potential economic and social power in a battle to replace the government that represents the interests of a tiny minority of superwealthy families with one of workers and farmers.

The challenge before workers and students, as discussed by the young socialists, is to construct a proletarian leadership within the struggles, protests, strikes, and upsurges of working people. We encourage all our readers to consider becoming a part of this struggle for the future of humanity, both by reading and studying books such as *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, and by joining with the Young Socialists and the Socialist Workers Party in the campaigns and struggles described at the YS Weekend.

Defend workers' rights

Workers, union members, students, and all defenders of civil liberties have an opportunity today to join the initial but growing resistance to Washington's assault on workers' rights. The nationwide campaign launched by supporters of Michael Itale in Miami is one that is helping to answer the attacks by the government and the employers on working people. In its defense of freedom of speech and the First Amendment, the campaign helps draw together those who are caught up in the web of police harassment, employer firings, FBI interrogations, intrusive searches at airports and elsewhere by the military and cops, and raids by federal agents.

In addition, the effort to demand the release of the five Cubans in U.S. jails, framed up and imprisoned, is one that also answers the federal government's attempts to use illegal entry and searching of a private residence, and electronic eavesdropping.

The war by U.S. imperialism against Afghanistan is unfolding in the grisly and brutal manner expected when the mightiest military power seeks to overturn a government in an economically underdeveloped country, one without advanced weapons systems, and devoid of a revolutionary leadership that has the support of the masses and seeks to mobilize them to resist the imperialist onslaught. Afghanistan remains a country with a largely peasant population, tribal social structures connected to pre-capitalist society and the divisions and conflicts that brings, and unresolved national struggles that have been

used by imperialism to keep the country divided.

While the ruling class has remained united behind the war, divisions have emerged among the capitalists over Washington's war on workers' rights. There are indications that the Bush administration has overreached in its move to allow the president to set up military tribunals, virtual kangaroo courts, for any person who is not a citizen. Many bourgeois voices are saying Bush has no basis in the U.S. Constitution for establishing the tribunals. They worry about the concentration of executive power this represents and caution that progress made so far could unravel if the groundwork has not been established to justify such far-reaching moves in public opinion.

Additional steps, such as formally appointing a four-star general as a homeland commander-in-chief for federal troops—a direct violation of the 1878 Posse Comitatus Act, which prohibits use of the U.S. armed forces from searching, seizing, or arresting people in the United States—is another threat aimed at working people. It signals the rulers' intention to not only make permanent the various measures to militarize the United States, but to keep testing the waters to see how far they can go.

It is one thing for the Bush administration and Congress to pass a raft of repressive legislation; it is quite another to start carrying it out against working people. That is where the fights today to defend the rights of Michael Itale and the Miami 5 are so important and deserve the support of all workers, farmers, and youth.

End U.S. embargo of Cuba

Washington should unconditionally end its economic embargo of Cuba. That's what the U.S. government should do right now if, as its spokespeople claim, it is truly concerned about the destruction wreaked by Hurricane Michelle.

The U.S. embargo on Cuba, aimed at crippling the Caribbean nation's economy, is part of Washington's four-decade-long war against the Cuban people and their revolutionary leadership. The goal of this economic, military, and political aggression is to try to punish the working people of Cuba for the crime of breaking free from U.S. control, making a socialist revolution, and refusing to subordinate the interests of working people to the dictates of the overlords of the American empire to the north.

The U.S. rulers were horrified when, after sweeping out a U.S.-backed dictatorship in 1959, workers and farmers established their own government, mobilized youth to wipe out illiteracy, guaranteed farmers their right to the land, took the factories out of the hands of the exploiters, uprooted racist discrimination, expanded women's rights, and sent volunteers to join in anti-imperialist freedom struggles from Algeria to Angola.

Above all, Cuba sets a "dangerous" example to workers and farmers throughout Latin America and the world—including in the United States. The U.S. embargo is a cold-blooded course in the interests of the tiny class of billionaire families who rule this country. That is why the U.S. cold war against Cuba does not end, and in fact has been intensified through measures such as the 1996 Helms-Burton law signed by William Clinton.

The U.S. government responded with typical imperial insolence to the destruction caused by the hurricane. Instead of offering whatever material assistance Cuba needed with no strings attached—as Cuba's revolutionary government itself has done many times in response to natural disasters in other countries—Washington sent a diplomatic note saying it would first make its own "assessment" of what the island needed. Then White House spokesman Ari Fleischer had the nerve to insist that any U.S. aid would be sent through "third parties" in order to be "certain that the Cuban people, and not the Castro regime, will benefit."

Cuba calmly rejected this arrogance, and was able to work out an arrangement to purchase specific amounts of food, medicine, and raw materials from U.S. companies to help reestablish Cuba's reserves.

In contrast with the terrible human and social toll of hurricanes in Central America and the Caribbean in 1998—from which those nations have still not recovered—Cuba was able to organize and mobilize its population to minimize the losses. Some 750,000 people were evacuated from their homes, and only five people died. This could only happen in a country where workers and farmers have made a revolution and are in power.

The most important act of solidarity that working people in the United States can offer Cuba in response to the critical conditions caused by the hurricane is to demand that Washington end its barbaric embargo and travel ban on Cuba, and to tell the truth about the Cuban Revolution and its example for workers, farmers, and young people in this country.

Bush faces divisions in rights assault

Continued from Page 7

police agencies was announced in the press November 19. The U.S. military's four regional commanders, with backing from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, have requested that agents from the FBI and Treasury Department be assigned to each command. The *New York Times* said the agents "could help speed the interrogation of suspected terrorists detained by the military and coordinate the effort to freeze terrorists' bank accounts." The war will "require American intelligence, financial and law enforcement agencies to work more closely with the military," the paper reported of the proposal.

Washington maintains four military commands that cover every part of the world outside of North America and Russia. Under the Clinton administration a North American command was established for the first time, whose chief officer operates out of the Joint Forces Command. This has been codified under the Bush administration with the Office of Homeland Defense, directed by former Pennsylvania governor Thomas Ridge. (See update in caption on page 7).

The *Times* reported that the regional commanders in chief, known as "Cincs," have over the years "accumulated such broad military and diplomatic powers in their slices of the globe that some in Washington now call them modern proconsuls, after the ancient Roman military officials who exercised great autonomy from the central government." The chain of command in the military goes from the Cincs, to the defense secretary, to the U.S. president.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the press that since September 11 the Pentagon and other departments and police agencies "are sharing information, we're sharing people, and we're sharing resources like never before, and we need to push this new level of cooperation to the [regional command] theaters as well."

Federalization of airport screeners

Another attack on workers' rights is the November 15 agreement reached in the House and Senate, signed by Bush, to bring under federal control within one year the screeners at the country's airports. The law means many of the 28,000 people currently holding the jobs, many of them immigrants or members of oppressed nationalities, will be fired and replaced.

Provisions in the legislation include a requirement that workers who screen passengers and baggage would have to be U.S. citizens and they would not have the right to strike. The American Federation of Government Employees union, while "congratulating" the government on the move, opposed the denial of the workers' right to "organize collectively and be represented by unions."

The airport screening workers have been pilloried in the media and by government officials for everything from being untrained, not patriotic, and responsible for the September 11 events. Facing low wages and miserable working conditions at the hands of their employers, screening workers at a number of airports have fought to be unionized. For example, workers at Los Angeles Airport, some of them immigrants working as screeners, won the right last year to be represented by the Service Employees International Union after waging a more than two-year organizing drive.

Other moves aimed at militarizing the United States include deployment of 100 National Guard troops at the nation's capitol, the first soldiers assigned to patrol the capital since the rebellion by Blacks against cop violence and racist discrimination in 1968. According to the *Washington Post*, the soldiers will be assigned in a nine-square block perimeter, where they will inspect vehicles entering parking lots and halt large trucks. The troops have been deputized by the Washington police and given arrest powers for 10 days, pending review by the city officials.

As part of removing obstacles from its assault on civil liberties and terror campaign aimed at immigrants, the U.S. government has appealed a Miami court ruling that released Mazen Al Najjar, a Palestinian professor at the University of South Florida, who was incarcerated for more than three years based on evidence never shown to him or his lawyer. A federal judge in Miami ruled that his rights were violated. Al-Najjar, who was never charged with a crime, was released last December. His case was one of some two dozen in which immigrants were jailed for months or years under laws signed by the Clinton administration that authorize imprisonment of immigrants based on "secret evidence."

War and the peasant population in Cuba

Printed below is an excerpt from *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* by Ernesto Che Guevara. The piece quoted is titled "War and the peasant population," from December 1957. It originally appeared in the July 26, 1959, issue of *Lunes de Revolución*. Copyright © 1996 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

Living in a continual state of war creates a new state of mind in the popular consciousness in order to adapt to this new phenomenon. The individual must undergo a long and painful process of adaptation to enable him to withstand the bitter experience that threatens his tranquillity. The Sierra Maestra and other newly liberated zones had to undergo this bitter experience.

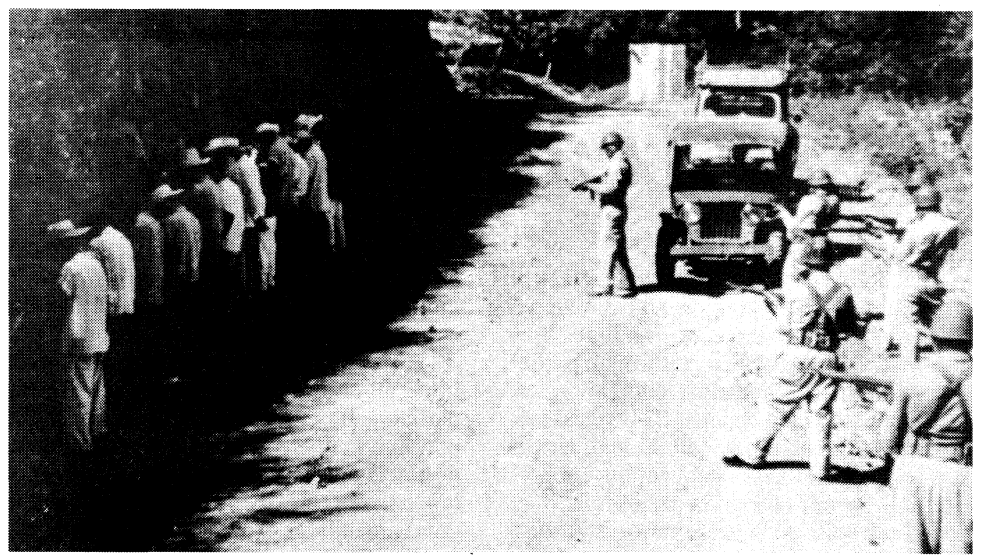
The situation of the peasants in the rugged mountain zones was nothing less than frightful. The peasant, having migrated from afar with a yearning for freedom, had put

desolation that we found, paralleling our own defeat at Alegria de Pio, the product of our inexperience (our only reverse in this long campaign, our bloody baptism of fire). The peasantry recognized those lean men whose beards, now legendary, were beginning to flourish, as companions in misfortune, fresh victims of the repressive forces, and gave us their spontaneous and disinterested aid, without expecting anything in return from the vanquished rebels.

Days passed and our small troop of now seasoned soldiers sustained the victories of La Plata and Palma Mocha. The regime responded with all its brutality, including the mass murder of peasants. Terror was unleashed on the rustic valleys of the Sierra Maestra, and the peasants withdrew their aid. A barrier of mutual mistrust loomed up between the peasants and the guerrillas, the former out of fear of reprisals, the latter out of fear of betrayal by the weak-willed. Our policy, nevertheless, was a just and understanding one, and the peasant population began once more to return to our cause.

The dictatorship, in its desperation and criminality, ordered the resettlement of thousands of peasant families from the Sierra Maestra to the cities.

The strongest and most resolute men, including almost all the youth, preferred liberty and war to slavery and the city. Long caravans of women, children, and old people took to the roads, leaving their birthplaces, going down to the plains, where they huddled in the outskirts of the cities. For the second time Cuba experienced the most criminal page of its history: resettlement. The first to order it was Weyler, the bloody general of colonial Spain;¹ now it was being ordered by Fulgencio Batista, the worst



Batista's army rounds up peasants in the Sierra Maestra, late 1950s.

traitor and assassin known to Latin America.

Hunger, misery, illness, epidemics, and death decimated the peasants resettled by the tyranny. Children died for lack of medical attention and food, when a few steps away the resources existed that could have saved their lives. The indignant protest of the Cuban people, international scandal, and the dictatorship's inability to defeat the rebels compelled the tyrant to suspend the resettlement of peasant families from the Sierra Maestra. And once again they returned to the land of their birth, miserable, sick, and decimated. Earlier they had experienced bombings by the dictatorship, the burning of their huts, mass murder; now they experienced the inhumanity and barbarism of a regime that treated them worse than colonial Spain treated the Cubans in the war of indepen-

dence. Batista had surpassed Weyler.

Peasants returned with an unbreakable will to struggle until death or victory, as rebels until death or freedom.

Our little guerrilla band, of city extraction, began to don palm leaf hats. The people lost their fear and decided to join the struggle and proceed resolutely along the road to their redemption. In this change, our policy toward the peasantry and our military victories came together as one, and already we were revealed to be an unbeatable force in the Sierra Maestra.

¹Gen. Valeriano Weyler was Spain's governor of Cuba in 1896 during the independence war. He ordered the forced resettlement of much of the rural population in concentration camp-type conditions.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

all his efforts into squeezing out an existence from the newly cleared land. Through a thousand and one sacrifices he had coaxed the coffee plants to grow on the craggy slopes where creating anything new entails sacrifice. All this he did by his own sweat, responding to the age-old yearning of man to possess his own plot of land, working with infinite love this hostile crag, which he treated as part of his very self.

Suddenly, when the coffee plants were beginning to blossom with the fruit that represented his hope, the lands were claimed by a new owner. It might be a foreign company, a local land-grabber, or some other speculator taking advantage of peasant indebtedness. The political bosses and local army chieftains worked for the company or the land-grabber, jailing or murdering any peasant who was unduly rebellious against these arbitrary acts.

Such was the panorama of defeat and

Pathfinder Bookshop wins support in New Zealand

Continued from Page 2

in response to a press release by the Pathfinder Bookshop calling for protests against this police harassment. Officer O'Neill told the paper he was simply carrying out instructions to speak to the bookshop management about the display.

Art Brown, spokesperson for the U.S. Antarctic Program, said he was aware some Americans in Christchurch had expressed

concern about the shop display to USAP management. He asserted that management had been unconcerned about it, considered it "a dead issue," and was surprised the issue had resurfaced.

The *Wellington Evening Post* ran an article titled "Row over antiwar display" on the same day.

Following the *Press* article, a young man came to the bookshop to look at the display, saying, "You have every right to express

your views in your window." Other supporters came by to express their solidarity. At a march against the war November 16, there was widespread condemnation of the police harassment among the participants.

The bookshop has received messages of support from a number of individuals and organizations, including people fighting for Maori sovereignty, individuals opposed to the war in Afghanistan, and others simply expressing their outrage at the police action.

November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

★ ★ ★ ★ Pathfinder Readers Club SPECIALS

25%
DISCOUNT

Workers' Rights vs. the Secret Police

LARRY SEIGLE

How, since the inception of the modern revolutionary workers movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups. \$3.00, PRC price: \$2.25

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The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom

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Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58

ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

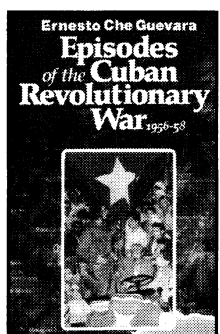
A firsthand account of the military campaigns and political events that culminated in the January 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba. With clarity and humor, Guevara describes his own political education. He explains how the struggle transformed the men and women of the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement led by Fidel Castro. And how these combatants forged a political leadership capable of guiding millions of workers and peasants to open the socialist revolution in the Americas. \$23.95, PRC price \$18.00

My Life

An Attempt at an Autobiography

LEON TROTSKY

Autobiographical account by a leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution, the Soviet Red Army, and the battle initiated by Lenin against the Stalinist bureaucracy. \$26.95, PRC price \$20.00



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including those
listed on page 12

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LETTERS

Human rights in U.S.

In the November 12 issue of the *Militant*, a letter from Ben Atwood accused the editorial staff of lacking "journalistic integrity" for criticizing human rights abuses in the U.S. while ignoring "horrid" abuses in "socialist" countries.

The nation that imprisons the highest percentage of its population, an astounding 3 percent; that executes the highest proportion of its population; that has the most radically unequal earning differentials and the most uneven distribution of wealth and resources of any advanced industrial state is the United States.

I live in Delaware, the state with the highest per capita income in the United States, but where 18 out of every 1,000 infants born die in their first year of life. In Havana, Cuba, six of every 1,000 infants born die in their first year of life.

Delaware leads the U.S. in both imprisonment and executions. The last time Cuba sentenced someone to death was about five years ago, a mercenary from El Salvador who had bombed hotels and restaurants and had killed and wounded a number of people. The last time Delaware sentenced someone to death was about six weeks ago. The state of Delaware puts someone to death every other month. Cuba, with a population 20 times larger, puts someone to death every decade or so. The USA has nothing to teach anyone about human rights!

Roy Inglee
Elsmere, Delaware

Support Nancy Oden

After reading about the harassment of Nancy Oden at the airport in Bangor, Maine, in the *Militant*, I would like to express my solidarity with the Green Party's right to express opinions that criticize the war in Afghanistan. The U.S. is murdering a lot of

innocent people in Afghanistan without finding any "justice." If Nancy Oden doesn't have her freedom of speech then none of us are free. Although I am not a supporter of the Green Party, I feel an injury against one is an injury against all!

Stephen Maupin
by e-mail

Green Party candidate?

Nancy Oden was not the Green Party candidate for governor of Maine in 1998. The Green Party candidate was Patricia LaMarche who garnered 6 percent of the vote and retained ballot status for the Maine Greens.

Nancy Allen
Maine Independent Green Party

Editor's note: We confirmed with Nancy Oden that she was an independent candidate for governor in 1998 in Maine for the Green Party USA. The Militant's stance is that every supporter of constitutional rights has an elementary obligation to defend anyone whose rights are being trampled on by the U.S. government or the employers. This is true whether they belong to one Green Party or another, or no party at all, especially as the U.S. rulers escalate their assault on workers' rights.

Those who devote more effort to distinguishing themselves from Oden than to defending her are elevating factional considerations above a fundamental question of solidarity, which only aids the enemies of the struggles for social justice.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

New Zealand law targets workers' rights

BY FIONA WILLIAMS

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Leaders of the trade union federation and the Green Party here are raising concerns that "anti-terrorist" laws being rushed through parliament could be used against labor struggles.

Council of Trade Unions (CTU) president Ross Wilson said a new definition of terrorism included in the law could allow the government to define strikes by unions over social and political issues as terrorist actions. The CTU sent a letter to the government outlining its concern that unionists could be caught up in the web of the new legislation. Green Party Member of Parliament (MP) Keith Locke, also the party's foreign affairs spokesperson, told the press that he was concerned about the lack of public discussion being allowed on the new measures.

Sweeping new powers are being given to the government under the proposed Terrorism (Bombing and Financing) bill, introduced in parliament last April. A public submissions period was open until July. With the

war drive launched in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in the United States, the government took the opportunity to amend the legislation.

Initially, only nine selected groups were to be allowed to make submissions to the parliamentary select committee about the bill, and they were given a week to do so. Following protests by civil liberties groups, unions, and the Green Party, however, the government was forced to extend the submission period to three weeks and broaden it to the public. The government plans to use a temporary regulation order to ensure it will have the measures in place by the end of November.

The new definition of terrorism covers anyone who commits political acts of violence to property, infrastructure, or the economy, or who finances or supports such behavior in any country. Simply on the grounds of "reason to suspect," a person or organization can be deemed a terrorist and their financial assets frozen. Such a designa-

tion can be made on the basis of secret information supplied by overseas or New Zealand security services. The accused has no right of access to this information, except in a limited way if the case later comes to trial. The designation, which can remain in place for five years, can be appealed only to the Minister of Justice or the Inspector-General of the Security Intelligence Service. The bill also makes it a crime to recruit terrorists.

It creates two new offenses—"terrorist bombing," with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, and "financing of terrorism," with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment. The measure also provides for international collaboration by New Zealand authorities in investigation and extradition of "suspects," and gives New Zealand courts extraterritorial jurisdiction over any alleged offense if there is a link to New Zealand.

Included also in the October 29 package was the announcement that security screening of domestic airline passengers and baggage, which was introduced after the Sep-

tember 11 attacks with the use of military personnel, would now become permanent. Legislation to facilitate Security Intelligence Service interception of electronic communications is also being considered, and aviation security and customs measures are currently under review.

Backing imperialist war

Meanwhile, amid speculation of instability in the coalition government, Labour Party leader and Prime Minister Helen Clark, and Alliance leader and Deputy Prime Minister James Anderton have moved firmly to quell any likelihood of Alliance members of parliament withdrawing their support for the war.

At the Alliance party conference November 10, a motion calling for Alliance MPs to withdraw their support was defeated. A compromise motion to "review support for the deployment of Special Air Service troops" was passed. The Alliance is a coalition of three parties dominated by left social democrats who split from the Labour Party in 1990.

In early October all 10 Alliance MPs voted for a motion to declare "its support for the offer of Special Air Services troops and other assistance as part of the response of the United States and the international coalition." Alliance MPs claimed credit for a mention of the United Nations resolutions on the conflict in the motion and said that allowed them to support it.

Meanwhile, Alliance leader and cabinet minister Matthew Robson is promoting a government plan to deepen the intervention of New Zealand imperialism under cover of providing "humanitarian" aid. This package could include an air force Hercules transport plane, engineers, medical and logistics teams, and would have the cover of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Robson also offered at the Alliance conference government funds for non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan and a New Zealand commitment to a United Nations-led effort to rebuild government institutions and clear mines.

Foreign Minister Philip Goff indicated November 11 that New Zealand troops could join a future UN force to intervene in the country, in addition to a contingent of Special Air Services soldiers already committed.

The seven Green members of parliament voted against the motion in parliament. Keith Locke has also backed "humanitarian aid" while calling it a "smoke screen to justify New Zealand intervention."

Fissures are also developing among Labour members of parliament over support for the war, with two of Labour's Maori MPs, Nanaia Mahuta and Mita Ririnui, chairman of the Maori caucus, voicing doubts over New Zealand military involvement. Mahuta referred to the example of Te Puea Herangi, who as a young woman led a movement opposing Maori involvement in the First World War.

Cubans confront hurricane disaster

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

Hurricane Michelle took 17 lives and caused severe damage to crops and buildings across the Caribbean and Central America in the first days of November. Evacuations and other measures taken by the Cuban government limited the loss of life on the island to five people. Cuba received the full brunt of the storm's 135-mph winds. It was the worst hurricane to hit the country in 50 years.

"For us, victory means having a minimum loss of human life," said Cuban president Fidel Castro on a November 5 tour of the country's worst affected western provinces.

On November 4 the Cuban government moved some 750,000 people from their homes. Among the evacuees were 35,000 students in education farm camps in low-lying areas, 500 tourists from southwestern islands like Cayo Coco and the Isle of Youth, and the 5,500 people living in the fishing town of Surgidero de Batabanó, on Cuba's southern coast.

The mayor of Havana ordered the evacuation of 150,000 people in the city of 2 million. Residents with homes facing the ocean reinforced their windows with tape, and lashed down water tanks on their roofs. Workers and peasants organized to bring in tobacco and other crops ready for harvest.

The storm hit with devastating impact. Winds of up to 135 miles an hour, gusting to higher speeds, tore the roofs off buildings, buckled steel power pylons, and ripped trees out of the ground, while high waves and tidal surges brought widespread flooding. Eight provinces covering 45 percent of the country's area and more than half its 11 million people were affected.

Many fields of sugarcane, the source of the country's largest export crop, were flooded or destroyed. The Australia sugar mill near Playa Girón, the command post 40 years ago of the revolutionary forces that defeated the U.S.-organized Bay of Pigs invasion, was one of the sugar facilities damaged by the storm. In the days following, thousands of workers have been mobilized to save some of this year's cane crop. Banana, citrus, and coffee crops also suffered.

Many students are using improvised classrooms while repairs are being undertaken to schools, 1,500 of which were affected, and 50 of which were destroyed or extensively damaged. Cuban officials said school repairs are being prioritized in each province.

Much of the country was left without power under the impact of the storm, which knocked down 125 high-voltage pylons and flooded the central thermoelectric plant in the west. The Cuban weekly *Granma Internacional* reported on November 14 that "20 percent of the central Villa Clara, Matanzas, and Cienfuegos provinces, the most damaged, are still without electricity services, a situation which...will be resolved by the end



President Fidel Castro visits areas affected by the hurricane in the province of Matanzas

of November and in early December." Many people face a shortage of water, since it is distributed by electric-powered pumps.

By November 12 the health system was "back to normal," reported the paper.

"Material damage is significant and serious, much worse than any caused since the triumph of the revolution" in January 1959, said Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of State. According to *Granma*, the Cuban leader "indicated that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure that pre-hurricane food levels would not be reduced. Short-cycle crops and vegetables will be increased and should grow substantially in

volume next year."

A considerable dollar investment will be required to repair damages in the sugarcane and fruit plantations," noted the paper, adding that "all this is taking place under complex conditions created by the world economic crisis."

In the aftermath of the storm Washington sent a diplomatic note to the Cuban government, "expressing the United States' readiness to immediately assess the need for aid, with a view to possibly providing humanitarian assistance," a statement by the Cuban Foreign Ministry said. In response the

Continued on page 13

Health-care workers conduct one-day strike

BY ANNALUCIA VERMUNT

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand—More than 1,100 mental health and older persons and oral health staff staged a one-day strike here November 11.

On the picket line outside Hillmorton Hospital in Christchurch, Karyn, who works in an acute psychiatric care unit, said the key issue for her was the "lack of value" management had for the staff. "Senior staff are burnt out because there are so few of them. It is hard as a new staff nurse knowing that senior staff don't have time for mentoring you into the job," she said.

Another nurse said that because of staff retention problems "graduate nurses are taking on responsibilities usually attributed to senior staff." The debt many nurses have when they graduate from school forces them to look for higher paying positions overseas. "The average age of nurses in New Zealand today is 47 and getting higher—that is not sustainable," he stated.

"Nursing is a commodity that is in demand around the world, it is no surprise that after two or three years nurses are going overseas," said Luke Gregory, who has 14 years experience. The unions are demanding a 6.5 percent pay raise over two years, and pay parity, annual leave, allowance increases, and career progression provisions.

The 1,100 striking health workers were to be joined by another 2,000 nurses from Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch Women's, Burwood, Ashburton, and other rural hospitals in the region. The nurses are demanding a 13 percent pay increase. Their strike action was averted when the New Zealand Nurses Organisation agreed to put an offer from the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) to a membership vote. The nurses rejected the offer at meetings on November 14.

The combined unions and the New Zealand Nurses Organisation have an-

nounced a 48-hour strike of 3,000 health workers December 2-3. Speaking to the *Press* before the vote was taken, Betty Pearson, Sue Fawcett, and Clare Johnston, who work in the Christchurch Hospital acute cardio ward, explained that the offer from the Canterbury District Health Board is not good enough.

Pearson said the average age of a nurse at Christchurch Hospital was 42. "If they don't give us a pay increase there will be no nurses left in 10 years. Nurses have all cracked. Sometimes we can't do any more," she said. Chief executive of CDHB Jean O'Callaghan said that the board recognized there were serious staffing issues that needed to be addressed but the government had made it clear there was no more money available for health this year. Health Minister Annette King is refusing to comment.

Annalucia Vermunt is a member of the Meat Workers Union in Christchurch.